Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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FBIS-SOV-96-077 *19 April 1996*

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Russia: FBIS Presidential Election Report 18 Apr

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[FBIS Report] ***This is the first in a weekly series of reports FBIS will produce on Russian regional developments in the campaign for the 16 June presidential election. It is based solely on Russian media reporting from Moscow and provincial sources (see note 1).***

(Note 1) FBIS receipt of some Russian local media sources via mail accounts for the dated nature of certain items cited. This FBIS media note presents the local media in the timeliest manner possible, given procurement constraints.

Some Regions Poised To Hold 16 June Local Elections Some regions are sticking to plans to hold local elections simultaneously with the presidential election on 16 June, despite a Central Electoral Commission (TsIK) directive to postpone them. For example, the Samara city Duma voted to hold elections for its deputies and mayor on 16 June. SAMARSKAYA GAZETA (16 March) charged that deputies supporting simultaneous elections are "not obeying Yeltsin" and "not respecting [Yeltsin's] request not to hold other elections" on 16 June. The Irkutsk newspaper SOVETSKAYA MOLODEZH (2 April) reported that Vladimir Andriyanov, the chairman of that oblast's electoral commission, predicted that Irkutsk will hold local and presidential elections together. He predicted that the oblast's desire to hold simultaneous elections "will win" out over the TsIK's directive, claiming that there are "no legal grounds to separate the elections."

Yeltsin expressed "categorical disagreement" with plans to hold local elections together with the presidential election during a 12 April meeting with the heads of federation components. He advised the leaders to reconsider such plans and postpone their elections until after the presidential election (ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI, 17 April).

The TsIK adopted a directive in late March banning regional electoral commissions from organizing elections for local authorities on the same day as the presidential election (Izvestiya, 5 April). TsIK Chairman Nikolay Ryabov reiterated the TsIK ban on numerous occasions. During an 8 April press conference, claiming that "many regions" are planning local elections for 16 June, he asserted that he is "sure" that simultaneous presidential and local elections will create "numerous organizational difficulties" and offer a chance for "various offenses," adding that it will be "very difficult" to observe all the requirements of the electoral law. Earlier he reasoned that the local ballots "frequently are counted first," resulting in the "delayed counting of the [national] vote, the variant readings of figures, complaints, and suspicion of falsification" (IZVESTIYA, 23 March). Ryabov did not comment on the possibility of ballot box rigging, but ventured to predict that "there could be some mistakes" (ITAR-TASS, 8 April).

Despite its ruling, the TsIK has made exceptions for certain regions. The TsIK agreed to allow Moscow municipal elections on 16 June, on the condition that separate boxes be installed at the polling stations for municipal ballots, and IZVESTIYA (5 April) had earlier predicted that "some Federation components" may decide to "make use of this precedent."

Yeltsin's Fortunes Improve in St. Petersburg President Yeltsin's reelection campaign appears to be picking up prominent supporters in St. Petersburg. NEVSKOYE VREMYA reported on 29 March that Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak will head Yeltsin's regional campaign committee. The committee includes such local cultural and political figures as Deputy Mayor Vladimir Putin; Duma Deputy Lyudmila Narusova (Sobchak's wife); Hermitage Director Mikhail Piotrovskiy; movie actor and former people's deputy Oleg Basilashvili; writer and former Presidential Council member Daniil Granin; St. Petersburg State University rector Lyudmila Verbitskaya; and Petropavlovsk Museum Director Natalya Dementyeva.

The 3 April NEVSKOYE VREMYA published a poll conducted by St. Petersburg's Sociological Scientific-Research Center showing Yeltsin's popularity rising significantly in the city since January. According to the poll, the number of respondents saying that they intend to vote for Yeltsin jumped from 17 percent to 24 percent. Yabloko leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy came in second with 17 percent, one percent more than in January. Communist Party (CPRF) leader Gennadiy Zyuganov also enjoyed a sharp increase, going from 5 percent of all respondents to 9 percent.

Yeltsin Organizing Gathers Strength In Samara Oblast The Samara Oblast division of a movement supporting Yeltsin's reelection formally registered with the oblast administration on 22 March, according to SAMARSKIYE IZVESTIYA (23 March). The daily noted that the chairman of the oblast contingent is "Samaratransgaz" president Gennadiy Zvyagin and claimed that "many well-known political and financial figures" in Samara are taking part in the support group.

Ex-Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko recently visited Samara to campaign for Yeltsin. Under the auspices of his "Reforms-New Course" (RNK) movement, Shumeyko met Samara Oblast Governor Konstantin Titov and urged those in the population who did not turnout for the December Duma elections, which he estimated at 37 million nationally,

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to "make the proper vote" on 16 June, according to SAMARSKIYE IZVESTIYA (15 March). The article characterized Shumeyko as having "shown himself as a true supporter and staunch political agitator for Yeltsin."

Yeltsin Campaigners Told To "Scram" In Moscow Suburb IZVESTIYA (9 April) reported that upon arrival in the town of Podolsk, 25 miles south of Moscow, Yeltsin campaigners of the public organization "Civil Initiative" were met by self-proclaimed "patriots of the city" who told the campaigners to "scram" and threatened to "torch" the campaigners' bus. According to the article, the youthful "patriots" prevented the campaigners from handing out their leaflets.

NDR Urges Far East To Vote For Yeltsin SEGODNYA (9 April) reported that Sergey Belyayev, leader of the Russia Is Our Home (NDR) parliamentary faction, led an NDR delegation to the Russian Far East to campaign for Yeltsin. The group of NDR deputies met local administration heads, military commanders, heads of industrial enterprises, businessmen, and political party representatives in Khabarovsk Kray, Vladivostok, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, and Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy. According to the article, Belyayev assured regional officials that the NDR will hasten Duma approval of Yeltsin's "Far East and Transbaykal" program to restructure the Far Eastern economy. Belyayev predicted that the "democratic" votes—dispersed among numerous parties in the December Duma elections—will unite behind Yeltsin and that in a two-man race between Yeltsin and Zyuganov, Yeltsin would gain the support of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's LDPR, "since they are anti-Communists too."

Zyuganov Claims Central Media Biased During the Moscow City Council's "Who's Who" program on local Moscow television (MTK television), Zyuganov accused Russian media of being biased against his campaign. He asserted that all the main television channels, including MTK, are pro-Yeltsin and claimed that he is generally encountering "hostility" from the media. Answering what he said were media allegations that the CPRF will "drag the country backwards," he said Russia's standard of living has already been "dragged back to what it was 50 years ago." He said that "everything must be done in accordance with the law and all forms of ownership must be encouraged," but then predicted to the MTK correspondent that "I'm afraid they'll cut this piece out of your program."

During a 9 April press conference, Zyuganov alleged that his electoral campaign is meeting an "information blockade" by the central mass media, especially television. He said the CPRF is "feeling that the local media, who are more independent in their behavior, are providing wide-scale support" (ITAR-TASS, 9 April).

Zyuganov Supporters United In Khabarovsk The Moscow newspaper LESNAYA GAZETA reported on 30 March that leftist forces in Khabarovsk Kray supporting CPRF leader Zyuganov in the presidential election have overcome the internal differences that marred their Duma election campaign. Local branches of the CPRF and the Agrarian Party of Russia have joined with veterans organizations, labor unions, and farm cooperatives to form a left-wing bloc that will campaign for Zyuganov. Although the CPRF received 17 percent of the vote in the kray during the Duma elections, the party was split and reportedly had two competing press secretaries. The resulting disorganization may have caused the party to miss sweeping the two single-seat districts in the kray. One of its candidates, eventual winner Valentin Tsoy, was expelled from the party just weeks before the election, too late for the party to find a viable replacement.

The paper noted that, in contrast to the leftists, the democratic forces in the province remain disunited. At a conference of the local union of democratic forces a "majority" of the delegates announced their support for Yavlinskiy. The union's youth group, however, split from this majority and said that they will support Yeltsin instead.

Novosibirsk Paper Criticizes Yabloko as an "Opposition" Party The pro-communist newspaper SOVETSKAYA SIBIR took Yabloko member Igor Malkov—a Duma deputy who is from Novosibirsk—to task for the party's stance in opposition to a majority of the communist-dominated Duma issues. In an article entitled "Apple of Discord? Or Why Yavlinskiy is Often 'Against'," the newspaper's interviewer charged that an "impression" has "developed" that Yabloko "opposes every principal political issue" and criticized Malkov for being "one of a few" Novosibirsk deputies to vote against the 15 March Duma decision to annul the 1991 Belovezhskaya agreement and Yavlinskiy for opposing the 29 March quadripartite integration treaty. The interviewer also predicted that Yabloko's "limited" base of support—"academic intellectuals and a part of the youth electorate"—will not "add up" to a victory for Yavlinskiy on 16 June. The interviewer described a Yavlinskiy victory as a "fantasy."

Kolesnikov Reminds Campaigners of Electioneering Ban at Military Units ITAR-TASS (8 April) reported that General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of staff of the Russian armed forces, issued a directive that restricts deputies and party representatives from visiting military units and defense installations. The directive is based on

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Article 18 of the Russian law on defense, which prohibits political activities, including election campaigning, on the territory of units and formations of the armed forces, according to ITAR-TASS.

NTV also reported on 12 April that Defense Minister Pavel Grachev is refusing to allow Zyuganov to meet servicemen on military bases. A CPRF spokesman said that Zyuganov intends to ignore Grachev's ban and "continue to work in military units and put forward his ideas and plans." Gorbachev also dismissed the ban, saying sarcastically that "not even the all-powerful Grachev can restrict the rights of Russian citizens."

Poll Outlines "Spheres of Influence" Among Presidential Candidates KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA (10 April) delineated where Zyuganov, Yeltsin, Lebed, Yavlinskiy, and Zhirinovskiy are most popular, citing data obtained from the All-Russia Center for the Study of Public Opinion on Social and Economic Questions (VTsIOM) and the All-Russia Movement for Public Support for President Boris Yeltsin. The article claimed that according to polling data as of early April:

- Zyuganov is most popular in Chita Oblast, where 70 percent of respondents favor him; Kazan with 50.2 percent support; and Tver with 31 percent support.
- Yeltsin is most popular in Ivanovo Oblast with 28 percent; St. Petersburg with 21 percent; Moscow with 20 percent; and Yekaterinburg with 17 percent. The article also claimed that Yeltsin's national rating had risen by 13 percent in March.
- The article reported that Lebed is favored in Tula Oblast, Zhirinovskiy in Volgograd Oblast, and Yavlinskiy in Rostov and Chelyabinsk Oblasts, without giving percentages.

Russia: Yeltsin Ends 'Successful' Visit to Budennovsk

MM1804120796 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 18 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Ryabushev under the general heading "Russia Knows How To Heal Its Wounds, But the Pain Remains, Compelling Us To Do Everything We Can To Ensure That There Is No Repetition of a Tragedy Like Budennovsk"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Budennovsk, Stavropol Kray — Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived in Budennovsk yesterday [17 April].

Journalists appeared in the Budennovsk hospital, which was destroyed and desecrated by the bandits, the day before the head of state's arrival. Just 10 months ago the chief medical officer's office smelled of gunpowder. Now, reborn from the ashes, the modest rayon hospital has been transformed with the help of Moscow construction workers into a fine hospital complex, equipped with the most modern medical equipment and technology.

The Russian president also visited the people of Budennovsk to share this joy and express his personal feelings of sorrow for the dead. This visit, apart from ordinary human feelings, was in response to political speculation. The point is that the Communists, who have now stepped up their activity in Stavropol Kray, have tried to accuse Boris Nikolayevich of failing to pay attention to the Budennovsk tragedy.

But let us recall that tragic June of 1995. At the very start Yeltsin instructed the Russian Government to draft the appropriate decree on reconstruction work and immediate aid for those who suffered during the act of terrorism in Budennovsk. As a result the federal budget allocated 40 billion rubles [R]. A Cossack office has been built from scratch, the State Bank and the rayon communications center have been rebuilt, and repairs have been carried out to the administrative, police, and military commissariat buildings and apartment blocks. Around 1,500 people received free treatment in the hospitals of the North Caucasus and Crimea. The victims have been paid over R4 billion in compensation by the state.

At the Russian president's request, Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov subsequently earmarked R132 billion for the reconstruction of the Budennovsk hospital. Virtually all this money has already been used. The hospital complex in Budennovsk is the best in southern Russia.

But money alone cannot wipe out the psychological and physical suffering of hundreds of people. The hostages — the old people, children, pregnant women, and babes in arms, who were driven into the hospital by the gunmen, along with 260 Budennovsk hospital staff — will never forget that terrible time. Many doctors and nurses still suffer from nervous disorders. But today they form a cohesive, humane medical collective. Virtually all the medical personnel who experienced the savagery of terrorism have remained and will continue to work in the hospital, which has been rebuilt by Moscow's construction workers.

The Russian president began his visit to Budennovsk here at the hospital. Early yesterday morning Boris Yeltsin laid the foundation stone of a chapel at the Budennovsk hospital, which will be built in memory of those who died 14-20 June last year. Then he met with doctors and nurses. Last December Boris Nikolayevich issued an edict awarding five Budennovsk doctors the

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Order of Courage. Another six were awarded the title of Meritorious Physician of Russia.

Then came a meeting with the personnel of the city internal affairs department, with the people who, during that tragic time, courageously defended their city against the Chechen terrorists. Regrettably, in their search for a scapegoat, some people tried to heap all the blame for what happened on the Budennovsk police alone. But justice prevailed. Now a Russian General Prosecutor's Office group of investigators led by Anatoliy Iskantsev, senior investigator for particularly important cases, has established that it was the courageous actions of the Budennovsk police that prevented Basayev's gang from moving deeper into Russia. In an unequal combat with the bandits, 18 Budennovsk policemen died and 22 were wounded. Russian President Boris Yeltsin laid flowers at the obelisk to the dead policemen. They were all posthumously awarded the Order of Courage. Another eight Budennovsk policemen were similarly decorated.

The Stavropolpolimer Joint-Stock Company, which the president also visited, is experiencing plenty of problems today. In order to help the collective Boris Nikolayevich gave orders for the people of Budennovsk to be issued with a short-term interest-free loan. Moreover, the president announced that he would be signing an edict on the construction of phase two of Stavropolpolimer in Budennovsk.

A meeting at the city's Cultural Center with the public of Stavropol Kray finished off a successful and, I am sure, emotional visit to Budennovsk for everyone, including the president. Here amid stormy applause Boris Yeltsin said that he had signed an edict for the development of Budennovsk. The gathering voiced a positive opinion of the president's work and backed his nomination for a second term. The people of Budennovsk were unanimous in instructing Yeltsin to prevent the Communists coming to power.

Russia: Zyuganov Visits Samara, Ufa

MM1804123796 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by Boris Bronshteyn: "Young Girl Saw Soldier Off to the Opposition.... Nonetheless Zyuganov Has Few Young Soldiers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Samara-Ufa — "Samara," Gennadiy Zyuganov said as he arrived, "is one of our blank spots on the Volga. There is also Nizhniy Novgorod...." It is strange that here he overlooked Kazan, which lies between them. Mintimer Shaymiyev in Kazan has announced his support for Yeltsin and since that is so nothing, not even the full moon, lights the way for the Communists in Tatarstan.

Actually, after the first meeting with voters in Novokuybyshevsk, which is adjacent to Samara, Gennadiy Andreyevich's mood improved noticeably. "The Volga has moved to the left," he said at a press conference. Well, it has become shallower too!

What else could the leader of the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] feel as he spoke in the palace named for Lenin on the square named for Lenin, where there is a monument to Lenin? An auditorium full of supporters, flowers, ovations. And it seems there are no other political forces in the country, especially as the local democrats did not picket the Communists and spoil their holiday. In both Novokuybyshevsk and Samara there were crowds of people who did not manage to get into the auditoriums and listened to Zyuganov relayed directly on the squares. Here they waved flags, cursed Yeltsin, and demanded that Gorbachev be given 10 years' imprisonment without the right to correspond with Margaret Thatcher.

On the square in front of the oblast administration building an elderly woman with a walking stick was brought to meet Zyuganov. "She is a remarkable woman," he was informed. "She was born 7 November 1917. "Moreover," the local party fellow fighter continued his presentation. "She once slapped Aleksandr Yakovlev in the face when he came to Samara — for treason. But she wants to kiss you!" What a range of emotions! Gennadiy Zyuganov gave a restrained smile. In general in a city where, as we know from television clips, the most beautiful young women in Russia live, none of us would be averse to a kiss. But beautiful young women purposefully kiss handsome young men and among the hundreds of supporters who surrounded Zyuganov in Samara there were no young women or indeed young men. Yet he had frequently stated that his election bloc had been joined by 38 youth movements and organizations.

In the end I managed to find a few young CPRF members. Valera Yemelyanov, a 20-year-old communications technical college student, and his friend Lena. Grisha and Sasha are pleasant boys who read Marx in their spare time and to not confuse Gaydar and Furmanov. Obsessed with the ideas of social justice, they are more than critical of the present authorities. But the young opposition fighters reject violence and assure me that they will not take up the weapons of the proletariat.

It turned out that in Samara there was a conference of the people's patriotic youth recently but instead of rallying there was a split there. Here the leader of the student movement was not flattering about Zyuganov. "The paternal instructions of the older comrades were no help," the local newspaper OBOZRENIYE reports

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ironically. Yes, it looks as though some young Samarans are ignoring the enchanting popular saying which, to judge by the book "Minor Genres of Russian Folklore" ["Malyye zhanry russkogo folklora"] (published by the "Higher School" publishing house, 1966) goes like this: "You must gain strength at your mother's breast and intelligence from the communist party."

And a group of young men and women in Ufa, which presidential candidate G. Zyuganov visited after Samara, were totally at odds with the popular saying. Here Artur Idelbayev, a graduate from the university's history faculty, organized a young people's anticommunist picket next to the "Yubilyenyy" palace of culture. Artur is starting out as a businessman and is perhaps guided in his life not so much by class considerations as cash considerations. But who could ban him from standing peacefully carrying placards? He was banned by the police captain who in front of the press chased away Artur and all his companions. Well, in June the captain could become a major.

As in Samara all Zyuganov's speeches in Ufa were successful — here, as the saying goes, you cannot delete a word from the "International." His arguments about the decline in production, unemployment and the drop in the living standard of millions of Russians could not raise any objections. Particularly among the people who had come to the meeting and had felt for themselves the failures of the reformers' social policy. Incidentally, Gennadiy Andreyevich did not express himself against the reforms nor against democracy. He reassured the champions of Bashkiria's sovereignty: The sovereignty will remain. What will his nationalities policy be like? The most loyal and respectful!

He should have drunk the famous Bashkir honey! But let us turn on the tape recorder and listen to one of Zyuganov's most famous fellow fighters, General Albert Makashov, a State Duma deputy. In the corridors of one meeting in Samara Albert Mikhaylovich, standing in front of the camera, answered the questions put by an American television journalist: "What are the qualities for which you respect Zyuganov?" she asked. "For being Russian!" Makashov replied. The American woman, who can only dream of such a personal quality, looked surprised. "For correctly expressing his thoughts in Russian," the general specified. "And he does not even have trouble pronouncing his 'l's' and his 'r's'!" Well, now we more or less understand. If you remember there was one communist leader who unforgivably failed to pronounce the "r" in the word "rasstrelivat" ["to shoot" — presumably reference to Stalin's Georgian nationality].

"But does it not seem to you that Zyuganov is too soft?" the journalist said in conclusion. "But we shall help him!" came the reply. "Look at the rows of officers standing with me!"

So that's it! Who still does not understand that if he is successful at the Russian presidential elections Gennadiy Zyuganov will have to work in the dense strata of a comradely atmosphere?

Russia: Gorbachev Does Not Think Chances of Winning Election 'Low'

LD1804141896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0958 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NOVOSIBIRSK, April 18 (Interfax-Eurasia) — Mikhail Gorbachev, a candidate to the Russian presidency, does not think that his chances of winning at the upcoming presidential elections are low. During his one-day trip to Novosibirsk, he attributed his low rating today to the fact that many voters have not yet made up their minds.

Everything will be determined "during the last two weeks before the elections or just at the electoral districts," Gorbachev said.

Gorbachev announced that the main points of his pre-election program include: immediate cessation of the Chechen war, protection of domestic producers by correcting tax policy, strict observance of the law and support for science and culture.

The Novosibirsk region was the first region Gorbachev visited during his pre-election trip throughout Siberia.

Russia: Lebed's Campaign Success Said Causing Split in KRO

MK1804134896 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by Igor Korotchenko: "KRO May Leave for Lebed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In commenting on the political "divorce" of Aleksandr Lebed from Yuriy Skokov, which left the popular general without the financial and organizational support of his former allies, many observers voiced doubts about Lebed's ability to form his own efficient team and secure the required number of signatures needed to become officially registered as a candidate for the Russian Federation presidency. They proved wrong. At the end of the past week, Lebed handed in to the Central Electoral Commission more than 1.9 million signatures, thus confirming the seriousness of his intentions.

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What made this possible? Starting his election race as a KRO [Congress of Russian Communities] candidate, Aleksandr Lebed had to quit the race at the halfway point, get a new support group registered, and start from scratch once again. According to people close to the general, the key role in scoring success was played by Yuriy Popov, who took charge of Lebed's campaign staff at the most difficult time for the latter. Lebed and Popov have been friends for many years. Both graduated from Ryazan Airborne Troops School and, at the same time, later joined the Frunze Military Academy. Incidentally, their fellow students there have become such well-known figures in the armed forces as General Ivan Babichev, former commander of Pskov Airborne Division and now student of the Academy of the General Staff; and, one of the heads of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, General Valeriy Vostrotin. As commander of the 58th Motorized Rifle Division, Major General Yuriy Popov went on a hunger strike to protest Lebed's discharge from the Armed Forces, something for which he soon after had to voluntarily take off his shoulder boards. Arriving together with Popov from Tiraspol was a group of senior officers who did not wish to serve under a new commander of the 14th Army, General Yevnevich. It is these men who formed the backbone of the team that came to lead Lebed in the storming of the Kremlin.

With a knack for organization and with experience in controlling big military collectives, the comrades in arms of the disgraced commander of the 14th Army rather quickly learned the ropes of the capital's politics. "We managed to quickly select strong people for our election headquarters and this predetermined the final result," Yuriy Popov told your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA observer. "However, we had decided against adding the collected signatures of servicemen to those that we handed in to the Central Electoral Commission, because we realized what kind of a reaction might follow in this event from the Defense Ministry." According to information the campaign headquarters have, more than 2,800 signatures were collected in only one division, which gives a graphic idea of the mood that prevails in the barracks and officer townships.

The successful start to Aleksandr Lebed's election campaign has made a marked impact on his former KRO comrades in arms. For example, consultations have begun at the initiative of a number of the leaders of regional branches of the Congress that may result in the passing of a joint statement. A draft statement says, in particular, that "a non-formal split has taken place in the KRO leadership, the Congress's political stance has not been defined, which in practical terms leads to disorganization of the movement and to its' leaving the political scene."

The [draft] statement expresses no confidence in the leadership of the current KRO National Council and contains a demand to call a KRO congress earlier than scheduled, in May 1996. The congress is supposed to consider the question, "On Backing the Russian Federation Presidential Candidate A.I. Lebed and on the Election of the Congress's [KRO's] Leading Bodies." According to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's information, the draft statement has received support and approval from the leader of the KRO's Moscow branch, and main finance manager of the Congress, Dmitriy Rogozin.

Russia: Prosecutor Office Suspends Court Decision on Bryntsalov

LD1804141196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0958 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Apr 18 (Interfax) — The Russian Prosecutor's Office has suspended moves to carry out a Supreme Court decision of April 17, under which the Central Electoral Commission has to recognize the validity of businessman Vladimir Bryntsalov's bid for the presidency.

The Central Electoral Commission received a letter from the Prosecutor-General's senior aide Taranenko Thursday morning, commission secretary Aleksandr Veshnyakov told Interfax.

The Prosecutor's Office demands that the Supreme Court acquaint it with Bryntsalov's case.

Bryntsalov's Supreme Court plea is being considered in line with appropriate law regulations, Veshnyakov said, and a decision will be made before the end of next week. Those who are fanning the flames in a bid to turn the Bryntsalov case into a political scandal are apparently trying to influence the course of the legal proceedings, Veshnyakov also said.

Russia: Shakkum Outlines Vision of Presidency

964F1842A Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Apr 96 No 15, p 11

[Article by Martin Shakkum, first vice president of the International Foundation for Economic and Social Reforms, doctor of political science, candidate for president of Russia, and leader of the Socialist Party of Russia, whose constituent congress will take place in the next few days: "The President's Task Is Social Engineering"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The history of Russia knows of many examples of the country finding itself on the brink

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of catastrophe or of having overstepped this brink even. But each time it has found within it the strength for the revival, for the mobilization, of the nation.

In 1985, despite the decline in the rate of economic growth and the pronounced lag behind the foremost countries of the West in technological renewal and the structural reorganization of industry, the "disappearance" from the global process of the "information revolution," and an incapacity for making a symmetrical response to the United States in particular directions of the arms race, the USSR remained a great power and possessed substantial reserves. We still had at that time the means for ensuring technological, economic, and social transformations in quite civilized ways. Instead, entirely haphazard and contradictory reform , which developed into a process of the accelerated breakdown of the state, were implemented at the end of the 1980's and the start of the 1990's.

The state, in fact, lost the manageability of all vitally important spheres. The overall decline in industry amounted to 50 percent. And the majority of works affected here were not "unnecessary" and "obsolete," as the ideologues of the government course maintain, but the most high-tech and science-intensive enterprises which had over many years accumulated the country's intellectual potential. Total agricultural production declined in the same period 67 percent.

The state cannot survive in a situation of the collapse of all essential-service systems. Should the present economic and social policy continue, general collapse is a just a matter of time. Russia's gross domestic product today is insufficient for normal reproduction and for this population, on this territory, and with this level of development of the economy. The orientation exclusively toward the extractive branches of industry and the aspiration to comply at all costs with the lending terms of the International Monetary Fund, as, equally, the ever increasing dependence on Western assistance, are turning Russia into an undeveloped and non-self-sufficient state of the third world, where the main problem is coming to be not the development of competitive branches of the economy but exclusively the repayment of domestic and foreign debt at any price.

The loss of manageability in practically all spheres is combined with intensifying corruption and loss of morals. However tragic, under modern Russian conditions the honest government official is an anomaly. A kind of "ideology of corruption," according to which a government official is "entitled" to privatize what he administered under socialism and also expects his "share" when various international contracts are being concluded, has been introduced into real life.... An entrepreneur who attempts to organize something and set up a creative process is rejected by the state and destroyed by both economic and criminal methods.

Russia is encountering an influx of smart operators endeavoring on our lack of experience to acquire capital and take it abroad. The entire set of shady transactions, which has been employed in the economy of the West for the past 100 years, has been employed here also, blows have been struck at our industry, banks, and national wealth, and everyone is endeavoring to grab a piece of the Russian pie. And it is the more easy to do so, the more unstable the situation and the less the order and the more the anarchy in the state.

The classic and most fearful of all mistakes has been made—the line of total rejection of a supposedly wholly nonviable System has been adopted. The consequence is the destruction of the positive elements of management of the economy which had been generated in the years of the existence of the USSR. Such actions are contrary both to the logic of historical development and to common sense.

The most likely way in which the new authorities will start out after 16 June 1996 is a "summing up" and a search for culprits. This is a simple and, to some extent, "natural" way inasmuch as the new government, having satisfied itself as to the catastrophic state of the economy and finances, will hardly want to pay off others' bills; an attempt, on the other hand, to investigate the sources of what has happened will inevitably lead to the specific persons responsible for this economic and political decision or the other that led society to the state of catastrophe.

But a search for guilty parties under current conditions is extraordinarily counterproductive and could prove tragic and, aside from all else, lead to the mass flight of entrepreneurs and government officials to the West and, accordingly, to a drain of financial and intellectual capital from the country.

This proposition does not, of course, preclude the institution of proceedings against persons who have committed crimes of office, in the economic sphere included. But corruption should be fought by honest professionals, not demagogues guided by political slogans and promising to execute all gangsters without trial and investigation overnight. The practice of mass summary prosecutions has always had one and the same result: the main criminals have invariably escaped punishment, and the "machinery of terror" has ground up thousands of lives, including those of the "terror chiefs" themselves, even if they have been guided by exalted theories.

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In the political sense, however, we are all to blame for what has happened to this extent or the other. Both those who went to the polls and those who stayed home, leaving the decision on their fate to others, which led to the election in 1990 of a Supreme Soviet which began its activity by according the adoption of the declaration of the independence (from whom?!) of Russia a standing ovation. This ultimately predetermined the inevitability of the Belovezhskaya Agreements, which were approved almost unanimously by that same Supreme Soviet.

There are in Russia today three scenarios of the development of events.

The first is a revival of the great Russian state, if the people can mobilize themselves and if they inwardly, organically feel this need.

The second is a farewell to the idea of a great power and conversion into a backwater of the third world—a backward, raw material-producing, semi-colonial country.

The third is a loss of control over the nuclear potential and a thermonuclear catastrophe disastrous for world civilization.

In the situation in which Russia finds itself today it is a threat to peace. And it is entirely probable that there could come a moment when we are not in a position to maintain the security of our strategic nuclear potential.

The debate under way in academic and political circles on the subject of the expediency of the conversion of a presidential into a parliamentary republic would seem to me extremely misplaced in the light of what has been set forth above. We could argue purely theoretically about the advantages of a parliamentary republic in some hypothetical, absolutely stable situation. In the situation in which Russia finds itself today it will need a president for many years to come—a strong leader, a first person who personifies State Power. In such a state as ours it is necessary to make dozens of most difficult and adjusted decisions daily—today this simply cannot be done in a parliament, collectively. What has been said does not, of course, exclude the need for a broadening of the functions and powers, control primarily, of the Federal Assembly.

The role of the personality who heads the state is more important than ever today. The president must govern, not reign on the throne. Only in this case can we hope for a revival of the great state.

It should be observed that Russia has not yet to the slightest degree approached Western societies in terms of a stable economic and political system, in which the personal attributes of the person at the head of the state no longer exert a decisive influence on the state of affairs in the country. In Russia there is an objective need for a leader who has an overriding objective and who does not regard the accession to power and its retention as the absolute goal. The country can move forward only when a person whose sole purpose in life is the revival of the great state comes to power.

He must be highly professional, have a profound understanding of the essence of what is happening, and be knowledgeable in all the important spheres of activity of the state: in the system of government, economics, law, Army problems, geopolitics, and high technology. This does not, however, mean that the president is required to be a specialist in all these fields or to pass himself off as such in the style of the well-known leaders of totalitarian regimes. The leader's objective is not petty tutelage of each and everything but, rather, a kind of "social engineering."

The power workload grows many times over under such conditions, and for this reason the president should be a person who is relatively young and fit: He will have to work 14-16 hours a day.

The leader elected in the summer of 1996 must immediately end the talk about "stabilization" and publicly affirm that Russia has been plunged into catastrophe, the dimensions and consequences of which our society must recognize in full. It is essential first and foremost to undertake the restoration of the national economy and the governability of the country.

There can be only one work mode now—one of self-mobilization, which will last several years, in the course of which we can, given the corresponding conditions, reach the level at which our slide began. This path will be difficult enough.

Neither the West or the East completely understands the essence of what is happening in Russia. Foreigners are "adapting" to our life a variety of models that emerged in a completely different historical context and under different social, political, and cultural conditions. It is naive to hope that people will finally understand us, enter into our situation, and help us. The history of the past five years shows that despite extensively publicized promises, there has essentially been no appreciable assistance to the Russian economy on the part of the West. This would be contrary to the logic of the market economy. Money is being actively made off Russia, it being burdened with an ever larger amount of debt. It is not inappropriate to bear in mind that there is not a single example in contemporary history of any country overcoming a profound economic crisis exclusively thanks to outside assistance. In addition, the credit of the IMF and other international financial organizations

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is hedged about with reservations (like the abolition of export duty on oil and gas and the reduction in inflation to a level which is unrealistic under the conditions of recession) which are inflicting on the Russian economy harm which is many times in excess of the extent of the allocated credit. And the credit is being used not for the production-engineering renewal of the Russian economy but for "patching up the budget holes," and it is future generations that will have to repay the credit.

We could only hope for large private investments from countries of the West in the event of the elite of the Western business world seeing that the authorities are ensuring stable conditions for the development of the economy and coming to believe in the necessity and reliability of investments in Russia. And the Russian capital that has been exported overseas will return only if we are able to make steady forward progress and achieve a growth of the GDP, organization, and manageability.

The closer the presidential elections, the greater the extent to which the authorities are being oriented in their decisions toward the propaganda effect—whether it be a question of clearance of the budgetary arrears or a settlement of the Chechen conflict. It would seem that the present president is no longer worried either by the state of finances or the position of the country as a whole after 16 June.

The arguments of certain candidates hoping to "fairly" share out the allegedly limitless natural resources of Russia strike me as being very naive. All our natural resources would, if commissioned, be sufficient barely for two years of the life that is lived in the United States. And then what?

Our main resource is the tremendous intellectual and technological potential. It is on this that we need to put the emphasis, not exports of raw material and fuel. It is necessary, consequently, to aspire to assimilate high-tech, science-intensive products, which could compete on world markets. A difficult, but feasible task. The concentration of intellectual potential in so-called "think tanks," by analogy with those that have been in existence for many years now in highly developed countries, is essential. Only in this way can we accomplish a breakthrough into the sphere of science-intensive industries and high technology and occupy a worthy place in the world system of the division of labor. To continue the present policy and to supply the world market with raw material and cheap manpower is to reconcile ourselves to a prospect of Russia's conclusive conversion into an economic outsider.

The socialist idea together with the idea of the revival of the great state could be that "integrating idea" about which so much has been said as of late. This idea has not lost its attraction, despite the tragic experience of "real socialism" and the discredit which ensued from the different varieties of "social patriotism." This idea is distinguished by a creative and unifying character, whereas the "Communists" and "patriots" and "liberals" (the arbitrary nature of these self-designations in the context of world experience is sufficiently obvious) are objectively working for the further division of society and increased confrontation.

We have neither 10 nor five nor four years for a quiet life. Russia has no choice but to mobilize, begin self-organization, and create.

Russia: Commentator Ponders Election Choices

964F1841A Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Apr 96 No 15, pp 1, 11

[Article by Oleg Moroz: "Peculiarities of National Vote-Hunting in the Spring-Summer 1996 Season: The Elections Are Approaching. Do We Have a Choice?"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Mistakes, Mistakes...

Actually, what are presidential elections for? Apparently, the reason is obvious—to appraise the current head of state and, if he is not good enough, replace him with another one.

In our country, however, this is not so. While the country is moving in a generally correct direction, Yeltsin has made so many horrendous mistakes that the need to replace him should apparently be obvious to anyone. As to the expediency of the presidential castling, however, this is somewhat more difficult.

What mistakes do I mean? They are well known. First and foremost, of course, the shameful war in Chechnya, the apotheosis of which was the true genocide unleashed on the Chechens by Russian troops last March. And, crazy as it sounds, unleashed in the course of the "peaceful settlement" in keeping with Yeltsin's plan.

Rumor has it that not everyone denounces this massacre. So its continuation apparently does not particularly hurt Yeltsin in the eyes of voters. This, in particular, is what Emil Pain hinted at in one of his television appearances. Meanwhile, the VTsIOM [All-Russia Center for Public Opinion Studies] poll conducted in mid-March produced the following figures: The ratio of those advocating the immediate withdrawal of troops and those believing that there is no rush to do so is 51:31. Which means that if the presidential elections were held right then, and if only the Chechen factor were taken into account, Yeltsin would never see a second term as president.

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Another flap is the almost across-the-board wage arrears. On 29 March presidential adviser Aleksandr Livshits reported with a sigh of profound relief that budget money to pay off these arrears have been transferred to all regions. But first, how could such a monumental flap be permitted? Where, may one ask, was the president all those long months while this outrage was going on? Second, have all the debts really been paid off? Noted economist Andrey Illarionov believes that in fact the arrears not only have not been reduced, but actually rose, and in general, it is difficult to imagine that this problems will be completely solved any time soon. "The president's promise was a big mistake," says Illarionov. "Such a promise should not have been made under any circumstances."

In short, one mistake follows on the heels of another. This is characteristic of Yeltsin.

There are many other flaps as well. It would take a long time to enumerate them. Crime runs rampant... It has come to the point of killers firing with impunity at the windows of the Central Bank chairman, who lives in downtown Moscow, in a guarded building. What can one say about ordinary Russian citizens? Where will their protection come from? The bureaucracy has also got completely out of hand... It has grown insolent, swollen, bogged down in theft and bribe-taking. It has become a real scourge for the ordinary man. A stratum of nouveau riche has emerged, wallowing in luxury, strikingly wealthy wealth, and contrasting disgustingly with the poverty of the majority of Russians... After all, posh life for a small group of inhabitants of the former Union (many of whom are trivial criminals) was not the true purpose of the economic reforms...

Who Stands in the Way of Normal Elections

No matter how long a list of Yeltsin's mistakes and miscalculations we come up with, however, THIS DOES NOT GIVE US THE RIGHT TO VOTE AGAINST HIM. The reason is simple and well known: The alternative to him are the Communists, whose breakthrough to power will mean, unequivocally, a national catastrophe for Russia.

In short, despite formally announced free elections, WE DO NOT HAVE ANY CHOICE. And, as usual—at least since 1917—Marx and Lenin's heirs are at fault. While in the past, following their natural dictatorial instincts, they prevented free expression of the popular will, now such an obstacle is presented by the very presence on the ballot—and more than that, among the favorites—of their candidate, beloved leader and respected wise man, a native of Mymrino village of Orel Province, Comrade Zyuganov.

Excuse me, others will take issue with me—is the Yeltsin-Zyuganov combination presented to the voters (the most likely one in the runoff elections) not proof that free elections are indeed taking place? No, of course not. The voter will be made to face a FORCED choice between a long illness, whose outcome is not clear, and guaranteed immediate demise. ELECTIONS HELD UNDER A SUBMACHINE GUN OR IN THE FACE OF THE THREAT OF INEVITABLE NATIONAL TRAGEDY CANNOT BE CONSIDERED FREE.

Yes, but such will be, they will say, the voters' will—that most likely these two candidates, these two irreconcilable forces, will face each other at the finish. One can talk at length about the voters' will. It is clear, after all, that the country is suffering from a grave illness. This illness is of a sociopsychiatric nature. Its origin goes back to the dark years of mass terror, carried out by the same Communists who in the past set in motion NEGATIVE NATURAL SELECTION, made weeding out the best representatives of the nation an assembly-line affair...

"Yeltsin—Zyuganov" is not an alternative for normal elections. One could accept as such, for instance, the Yeltsin—Yavlinskiy pairing. Or Yeltsin—Svyatoslav Fedorov. Or even Yeltsin—Gorbachev, after all... But, of course, there will not be any such pairings.

The Communists not only stand in Russian citizens' way in making a normal choice—they prevent foreign politicians from putting pressure on Yeltsin when necessary. Recently we learned, for instance, that, as it turns out, the Americans regularly make demands to the Russian side on the subject of its illegal actions in Chechnya. But they do so confidentially, quietly. Again, so as not to hurt Yeltsin in his battle against the reds. Obviously, the effect of such hushed demarches is practically zero.

Naturally, by depriving us of the ability to vote against Yeltsin, by not letting international public opinion go against him in his wrong and illegal decision, the Communists fully share with him the responsibility for all his mistakes and failures.

Communists, Backward!

And then, barely audibly, the commissar said: 'Communists, forward! Communists, forward!'" Many remember this poem by Mezhirov, which brought him celebrity and fame.

Today one is tempted to shout something different: "Communists, backward!" Backward—not in the sense of going back to the past. They are already dragging us there with all their strength even without my exhortations. "Backward!—in the sense of: "Hold back a bit!"

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Had Zyuganov been an intelligent and responsible politician, he would have no trouble understanding that his ascension to power would bring uncountable troubles to Russia. Regardless of what his subjective dreams and desires are. The force that elevates him and pushes him to the presidential throne is a horrible, destructive force that will leave no stone unturned in Russia. In Russia and adjacent countries. And perhaps even more remote ones, keeping in mind that this force will have nuclear weapons at its disposal.

Do not bother to object that the Communists had these weapons in the past and nothing untoward happened: Those were Communists WHO POSSESSED POWER; these are ones CLAWING TO POWER, that is, charged with an incomparably greater aggressive potential. And anyway, these are generally not so much Communists as people of a somewhat different coloration. Yegor Gaydar has warned us: For the first time nuclear weapons may end up in the hands of national-socialists (just the thought of it, if we recall, made the whole world shudder at the end of World War II).

Zyuganov could figure out that, having become president, he will not be able to solve any of the problems facing the country today, the weight of which will increase 10-fold in the event of his victory. They will simply bury him, like an avalanche.

He could figure out, finally, that the presidency does not hold the promise of anything good for him personally. Suffice it to recall the fate of those who stood at the helm of the 1917 October coup. How many of them lived to see a ripe old age? The current generation of Bolsheviks' grip on power undoubtedly will follow the same blueprint as in the Lenin-Stalin times: intrigues, plots, overt and covert murder of rivals... Will Zyuganov himself become a new Koba [Stalin] or will the logic of behind-the-scenes intrigues propel forward someone else, more devious and ruthless? And even if the former Mymrino native does become the new dictator, just how much will he gain from it, looking at the matter from a broad historical perspective? Who is Stalin now in the mind of millions of normal people?

Mentally shuffling through all these prospects, which do not hold any promise of joy for Zyuganov, one can draw an unequivocal conclusion: The best thing for him right now would be to REFUSE TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT, withdraw his nomination. This would be an action truly worthy of a real man. An action that would put him in the same category as the best in Russian history.

But, of course, this is not going to happen. Only personalities of a completely different caliber than our doctor of Marxist- Leninist sciences are capable of such actions. All one has to do is watch the infinite happiness fill his glistening face when the elated masses greet him at some rally or ceremony. Now, one can say with certainty: There is no motive in the world that would compel him to voluntarily give up these greetings, applause, and this almost unlimited power seemingly already floating into his hands.

And he will not be permitted to commit apostasy anyway. They can even kill him if need be. This has never been a problem for them.

Mortal Battle

So, there is only one alternative—Yeltsin or Zyuganov? This alternative, I repeat, is not for free peaceful elections. It is for a harsh uncompromising confrontation similar to the Yeltsin-Khasbulatov battle in 1993. Both then and now, the battle is to the death. Back then it took the form of a confrontation between the legislative and executive authority, which in the end spilled over into bloody street clashes; now it has taken the form of preparing and holding presidential elections. Nobody will provide a guarantee today that the finale of this round will not be the same as in that memorable October two and a half years ago.

And anyway, where did the idea come from—to dump such a heavy burden on the voting procedure, resolve with its help whether Russia is to continue forward, in the direction of a free market and democracy, or turn back, to the bright Brezhnev-Chernenko past! Let us say, Zyuganov gets one-third of a percent more... So what? Perhaps somebody simply made a small mistake in counting. Besides, specialists contend that in both the previous parliamentary elections and those before that there was large-scale falsification of the results in favor of the Communists and Zhirinovskiyites, as high as 10 or even 20 percent. Where is the guarantee that the same thing will not happen this time? If some crook manages again to run circles around Mr. Ryabov (who, as we already know, is not terribly inclined to clamp down on such "magicians" anyway), does it mean tuning back a huge country that is only beginning to gain momentum? No, professor, something really does not add up this time.

You do not have to be a spy to detect in the actions of both sides the signs of preparations for events incomparably more serious than merely dropping pieces of paper in boxes set up all over the place.

One of the obvious signs is the path of provocations chosen by the communist opposition. Among the first, of course, is the denunciation of the Belovezhskaya Accord. Over the past few days many prominent pundits have frantically debated who won and who lost from this

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ruse. But nobody pointed out, so to say, the medical-physiological side of the matter. I am absolutely certain that one of the main tasks conceived by the authors of this undertaking was to throw Yeltsin off balance. And this they achieved: We saw the president in a state of rage. A surge of adrenalin is not the best one can wish upon a person suffering from ischemia. To undermine Yeltsin's health, or cause another heart attack—this is, among other things, what his current political opponents undoubtedly are trying to achieve. With all the primitivism of such a tack, it may turn out to be most effective.

This, of course, is only the beginning. As the elections approach, such blows will be dealt increasingly more often, and become increasingly heavier. In the plexus, the kidneys, the liver... Are you ready for this, Boris Nikolayevich? It cannot be ruled out that the next step the Duma will come up with will be separate negotiations with Dudayev...

By the way, elementary logic suggests that Yeltsin should have had a double, a parallel presidential candidate. Just in case. For insurance. But elementary logic is not for us.

Yeltsin strikes back at the Communists equally harshly. As is known, in response to the Duma decision on Belovezha, the OMON [special purpose militia detachments] was brought into the Duma building—ostensibly, to look for an alleged bomb...

Everybody remembers how the people's elected representatives were irked by Soskovets' appointment as chief of Yeltsin's election campaign headquarters. Disregarding this grumbling, however, Yeltsin went even further—he created a new headquarters, this time under his own leadership, and included in it nearly the whole government, or at least a number of key figures, starting with Chernomyrdin. Generals Barsukov and Korzhakov also are listed. This speaks more loudly than anything else of the nature of the unfolding confrontation.

As usual in such times, the president is especially nice to the military, Internal Troops, and the FSB [Federal Security Service]. He visits military units, hands out awards, promotions in rank... His opponents are not far behind, though. The old Yeltsin-hater—the iron lady Mme. Goryacheva—let it slip recently that the Duma is conducting talks with enforcement structures on the subject of a potential exacerbation of the political situation in the event of Yeltsin's defeat in the elections. The deputy speaker is convinced that Yeltsin will not surrender power to his successor—that is, Zyuganov—voluntarily, without resistance. In the Far Eastern procurator's opinion, the aforementioned structures should be unconditionally transferred under the command of the Mymrino native the very day after the election results are announced.

How do you like that: Conducting talks with the Ministry of Defense, the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], and state security behind the back of the president to whom these agencies are directly subordinate! Is this not another left hook?

In Search of a Third Force

The main defect of the upcoming elections is clear to many, of course. In principle, we should tip our hat to the people who comprise the so-called third force. They are currently making desperate efforts to see to it that the expression of popular will can truly be free, that it not boil down to a choice between Yeltsin and Zyuganov. That this choice not be a forced one.

It is clear, however, that the third, fourth, and fifth contenders for the office of president must be realistic and at least theoretically have a fighting chance. And this is precisely where the third force fails. If one adds up the ratings of Lebed, Yavlinskiy, and Svyatoslav Fedorov, it does not look bad—something around 26 percent. But, when it comes down to it, will the supporters of the intelligent author of the 500 Days program vote for the brave Dniester general, on whom the unforgettable Griboyedov could easily base his Colonel Skalozub character? I think that even if some will, there will be few of them. Just as Lebed's admirers are unlikely to support Yavlinskiy in large numbers. So arithmetic is hardly of any help here—it is unlikely that the ratings will add up.

These figures will, course, continue to hustle for some time, knock about, and scrape to the bottom their electoral potential. The important part is to keep them from getting carried away. And this is where, I think, we should not just tip our hat to them but literally beg on our knees—please, do not miss the point where you should withdraw from the election battle and call on your electorate to vote for Yeltsin. Otherwise we will all pay the price.

The earliest we will be able to have truly free elections in Russia is perhaps another 10-15 years. When all sorts of extremists—first of all the red ones—get pushed out to the far periphery of the political spectrum, where they will permanently settle for several percent of the total vote, as in all decent countries.

As to the next—five years from now—election cycle, it will probably repeat the current simple confrontation of raw force: the party of Communists against the party of power, although for Yeltsin's heirs victory will probably come at a lesser cost (this is, of course,

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assuming that Yeltsin manages to defeat Zyuganov this summer one way or another). Changes in society's social structure and the natural attrition of the ranks of flaming revolutionaries will do their job, one would assume.

We will get truly free elections only when new strata, and first and foremost the middle class, emerge and establish themselves firmly in society. The latter is not even a subject of conversation any longer, whereas, on the contrary, we should not only keep talking about it but should actually purposefully form it. This class could become a real support for the third, fourth, and any other force. Had it existed, Yavlinskiy quite possibly would have a real chance at the presidency, even if he continued to talk to the people in convoluted sentences full of participle constructions and adverbial participles.

Russia: Readership Poll on Election, Cabinet Reviewed

964F1875A Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian Apr 96 No 16, p 2

[Review of the ARGUMENTY I FAKTY readers' poll on presidential elections, prepared by Andrey Uglanov: "For ARGUMENTY I FAKTY Readers, the Presidential Elections Have Already Begun"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In ARGUMENTY I FAKTY No. 6 we published a questionnaire in which we asked readers to form their own cabinet of ministers and name the head of state. The idea was to show the numerous presidential hopefuls in Russia where they stand in the eyes of voters.

The results exceeded our expectations—we received more than 100,000 completed questionnaires. And if we take into account the fact that many letters were signed by whole families and even workers' collectives, it would be fair to say that the responses to the questionnaire reflect to a considerable extent voter expectations during the period of February-March, that is, three months before the elections. We will try to find out how the electorate's mood has changed by announcing another ARGUMENTY I FAKTY poll in the next issue.

Frequency of Mention

Letters to ARGUMENTY I FAKTY mentioned a total of 95 names of political, public, and state figures. We are publishing the top 26 names (with the aggregate frequency of their names being mentioned in any capacity as a percentage of the total number of letters):

1. G. Yavlinskiy—61.2; 2. A. Lebed—59.3; 3. E. Pamfilova—56.5; 4. Ye. Primakov—50.9; 5. B. Gromov—49.5; 6. B. Fedorov—47.1; 7. Ye. Gaydar—43.4; 8. A. Kulikov—40.9; 9. Sv. Fedorov—28.5; 10. G. Zyuganov—26.8; 11. V. Chernomyrdin—24.7; 12. B. Nemtsov—21.8; 13. B. Yeltsin—20.4; 14. A. Chubays—20.2; 15. A. Kozyrev—17.2; 16. Yu. Luzhkov—16.8; 17. G. Starovoytova—14.6; 18. Ye. Yasin—13.3; 19. I. Khakamada—11.9; 20. A. Livshits—11.8; 21. N. Ryzhkov—10.5; 22. V. Kadannikov—10.3; 23. V. Zhirinovskiy—9.9; 24. A. Nikolayev—9.5; 25. A. Tuleyev—8.9; 26. V. Panskov—7.8.

The "Presidential" List

In February-March our readers proposed as the most suitable president (as a percentage of the number of letters received):

1. G. Zyuganov—21.4; 2. B. Yeltsin—20.1; 3. G. Yavlinskiy—10.7; 4. B. Nemtsov—9.1; 5. A. Lebed—7.6; 6. Sv. Fedorov—7.4; 7. V. Chernomyrdin—4.4; 8. Ye. Gaydar—2.2; 9. G. Starovoytova—2.1; 10. Yu. Luzhkov—1.7; 11. B. Fedorov—1.6; 12. A. Solzhenitsyn—1.6; 13. V. Zhirinovskiy—1.4; 14. A. Sobchak—1.1; 15. M. Gorbachev—0.9.

The Cabinet of Ministers

In all the letters received by ARGUMENTY I FAKTY, our readers propose the following as ministers (as a percentage of the number of letters received):

Prime minister: G. Yavlinskiy—21.7; V. Chernomyrdin—17.0; Ye. Gaydar—16.8; B. Nemtsov—3.7; Yu. Luzhkov—2.8; A. Chubays—1.9.

First deputy prime minister: A. Chubays—12.4; Ye. Gaydar—9.6; V. Kadannikov—7.0; G. Yavlinskiy—6.3; B. Nemtsov—5.7; O. Soskovets—5.2.

Deputy prime minister on social issues: E. Pamfilova—55.0; S. Goryacheva—4.6; I. Khakamada—4.5; Sv. Fedorov—2.7; G. Starovoytova—2.4; G. Zyuganov—2.1.

Minister of the economy: G. Yavlinskiy—17.2; Ye. Yasin—11.8; Ye. Gaydar—11.4; A. Livshits—6.6; Sv. Fedorov—4.6; B. Fedorov—4.3.

Minister of finance: B. Fedorov—17.7; V. Panskov—7.2; S. Dubinin—5.9; Ye. Gaydar—2.8; A. Livshits—2.3.

Minister of defense: B. Gromov—35.7; A. Lebed—34.5; P. Grachev—4.6; G. Starovoytova—4.4; A. Nikolayev—3.4.

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Minister of internal affairs: A. Kulikov—38.6; A. Lebed—10.0; B. Gromov—6.4; V. Zhirinovskiy—3.9; G. Gdlyan—2.7; V. Kolesnikov—2.5.

Director of FSB [Federal Security Service]: B. Gromov—6.5; A. Lebed—6.5; A. Nikolayev—5.3; M. Barsukov—4.7; O. Kalugin—2.1; A. Rutskoy—2.1.

Minister of foreign affairs: Ye. Primakov—46.3; A. Kozyrev—16.8; V. Lukin—9.8; G. Starovoytova—1.6; M. Gorbachev—1.5; V. Zhirinovskiy—1.0.

Cabinets of Leading Contenders

Percentage values have been calculated proportionally from the number of letters that named Boris Yeltsin or Gennadiy Zyuganov as the new president.

If G. Zyuganov became president, ARGUMENTY I FAKTY readers would like to see the following in the government:

Prime minister: G. Yavlinskiy—24.7; N. Ryzhkov—19.7; A. Tuleyev—15.7.

First deputy prime minister: A. Tuleyev—18.3; G. Yavlinskiy—9.4; N. Ryzhkov—7.9.

Deputy prime minister for social issues: E. Pamfilova—40.4; S. Goryacheva—16.1; A. Tuleyev—3.5.

Minister of the economy: G. Yavlinskiy—24.7; Sv. Fedorov—5.4; S.Glazyev—5.1.

Minister of finance: B. Fedorov—14.9; V. Panskov—7.8; V. Gerashchenko—5.1.

Minister of defense: A. Lebed—48.8; B. Gromov—36.6; A. Makashov—1.8.

Minister of internal affairs: A. Kulikov—43.2; A. Lebed—11.2; B. Gromov—8.9.

Director of the FSB: B. Gromov—11.0; A. Lebed—8.4; A. Rutskoy—6.0.

Minister of foreign affairs: Ye. Primakov—60.4; V. Lukin—6.4; A. Kozyrev—3.3.

If B. Yeltsin remained president, ARGUMENTY I FAKTY readers would like to see the following

Prime minister: V. Chernomyrdin—56.0; Ye. Gaydar—16.6; G. Yavlinskiy—7.3.

First deputy prime minister: A. Chubays—12.5; O. Soskovets—16.2; Yu. Luzhkov—13.0.

Deputy prime minister for social issues: E. Pamfilova—44.8; I. Khakamada—5.4; G. Zyuganov—2.9.

Minister of the economy: Ye. Yasin—22.6; G. Yavlinskiy—15.0; A. Chubays—6.9.

Minister of finance: B. Fedorov—40.3; V. Panskov—13.8; S. Dubinin—5.2.

Minister of defense: B. Gromov—24.5; A. Lebed—23.5; P. Grachev—19.7.

Minister of internal affairs: A. Kulikov—51.3; A. Lebed—6.2; V. Zhirinovskiy—4.0.

Director of the FSB: M. Barsukov—13.1; A. Nikolayev—5.3; A. Lebed—4.3.

Minister of foreign affairs: Ye. Primakov—51.4; A. Kozyrev—26.4; V. Lukin—3.6.

Well, on the subject of main contenders for the job of the RF president: There are no surprises here.

The only thing of note is that the figures, which are close to the results of other surveys, indicate that our poll represents the entire spectrum of public opinion.

What is interesting is something else. The voters are not at all divided into two warring camps and judge the candidates solely by their abilities.

For instance, B. Yeltsin's admirers do not rule out G. Zyuganov, A. Lebed, and V. Zhirinovskiy as members of his government.

The composition of G. Zyuganov's cabinet of ministers is even more indicative. Of the die-hard Communists, the voters want to see in the cabinet only A. Tuleyev, N. Ryzhkov, S. Goryacheva, and the fellow-traveler A. Rutskoy.

The absolute leaders in communist voters' preferences are such well-known reformers as G. Yavlinskiy, E. Pamfilova, B. Fedorov, and A. Lebed. This is serious food for thought for the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] Central Committee, if it decides to send the people back to socialism. It is interesting to note readers' attitude toward the current minister of foreign affairs, Ye. Primakov. For most voters of all colorations he is the best man for the job, which means his authority is high.

Counting and processing of the letters was carried out by the Systems Research Institute headed by Yevgeniy Cherepanov.

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CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 19 Apr

LD1904062096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0451 GMT 19 Apr 96

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW Apr 19 (Itar-Tass) — Follows a review of Friday's Moscow-based Russian newspapers dated April 19.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on the G8 summit on nuclear security issues.

The newspaper points out that the presidents of the United States and France, the German Chancellor, the Prime Ministers of Britain, Italy, Canada, and Japan have arrived in Moscow by air to attend the summit. Since no one forgot about the Chernobyl tragedy, the president of Ukraine has also been invited to the authoritative forum.

"Of course, all problems, brought on by the military and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, just cannot be solved within the two days of the forum proceedings, April 19 and 20. There are lots of such problems.

"Nuclear weapons still pose a threat to peace. This year Russia is to complete the removal of formerly Soviet nuclear warheads from ex-Soviet republics to the national territory. Security would be enhanced by several orders of magnitude if Western states follow Russia's example."

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on Russia's efforts to ensure the safety of nuclear power facilities.

Russia, where 29 nuclear-power-station units operate, makes serious efforts to ensure the safety of nuclear power facilities.

But these matters, as was pointed out at a recent meeting of Russia's Security Council, cannot be successfully tackled only within the framework of national programmes.

"We are for large-scale international cooperation in the development, production and operation of new, safe and economically beneficial nuclear power units," President Boris Yeltsin told the meeting.

"Our country has taken up the same attitude to the safe treatment of the waste of the nuclear power industry. This is what served as a ground to hold a G8 summit in Moscow to discuss these issues," the newspaper emphasises.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on the situation in Chechnya.

Referring to the Russian Defence Ministry's Information Directorate, the newspaper writes that the situation in Chechnya remains complex. Bandit formations persist in their armed resistance to the Provisional Combined Force and seek to frustrate talks and the peace process. They do not cease firing on Federal units in the areas of Stary Achkhoy, Orekhovo, and Goyskoye villages. On Thursday morning, militants attacked Federal units near Elistanzhi.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on the idea of dividing Russian into "gubernias".

The newspaper conveys the opinion of Federation Council Speaker Yegor Stroyev, who strongly criticises the idea of dividing Russia into "gubernias," government districts which existed prior to the 1917 October revolution.

Stroyev believes that the advocates of the idea intend to upset the present administrative and territorial division of the country and combine several current Subjects of the Federation into one gubernia, which may provoke conflicts.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on efforts to combat organised crime.

"Mafia people have come out of hiding and ceased to scruple. They strain after power in order to multiply their criminally gained capital, not just to retain it," the newspaper notes.

Touching upon measures to fight orgnaised crime, the newspaper suggests that "the obsessive idea of reforming criminals should be thrown away, and provision should be made to raise the upper limit of the deprivation of freedom, particularly for violence against person, up to 40-50 years and to introduce a legislative norm which would enqable the court, in individual cases concerning particularly grave crimes, to pass a sentence without the convict's right to appeal for pardon."

IZVESTIYA on the rouble rate going steady.

The newspaper's analyst Otto Latsis, Dr of Science (Economics) draws the readers' attention to one anniversary which has passed unnoticed: "The rate of the rouble at the Moscow currency exchange is now as it was at the beginning of April last year. With minor fluctuations, the rate of the rouble has remained on the whole unchanged for more than a year."

Analysing the obvious consolidation of the "inflationary" rouble, the analyst arrives at a conclusion that this manifests a real progress in the development of the free market economy.

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Russia: Zyuganov on Summit's 'Anti-Russia' Thrust

MM1804133796 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 18 Apr 96 p 3

[Article by Russian presidential candidate Gennadiy Zyuganov: "On the 'Special Danger.' What Can Be Expected From the Moscow Meeting of the G-7 Countries"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the eve of the meeting, scheduled for 19-20 April, of the G-7 countries — the leading Western industrial powers — on problems of nuclear safety, to which the leaders of Russia and Ukraine are invited, the editorial office asked presidential candidate Gennadiy Andreyevich Zyuganov to set forth his own approach to the problems to be raised at this international conference.

The opposition that is committed to a strong state [gosudarstvennicheskaya oppozitsiya] has always professed a principled approach to the analysis of international affairs: The cornerstone of Russia's foreign policy is its national interests. This language is used by all states in the world to talk to one another. Unfortunately, if you examine our own authorities' actions in the international arena, particularly in the present pre-election period, you cannot help noticing negative trends. The impression is created increasingly frequently that contacts and measures at world level that are important to the country's future are invested with some special significance that does not necessarily accord with the country's national interests.

That is precisely the impression made by the situation that is taking shape today in connection with a matter that is in general very serious — the conference on nuclear safety questions, which was scheduled for 19-20 April as long ago as last year's G-7 meeting with President Yeltsin in Halifax (Canada).

Image of the "Nuclear Bugaboo"

In fact, **the problem of the storage and control of the dissemination of nuclear materials in the world has assumed great significance nowadays.**

True, instances of the unlawful dissemination of these substances can be seen practically everywhere today. The composite picture of the developing trends in this respect now covers the entire West European region, the United States, and various regions of the Eastern world. So there is undoubtedly something here for the leaders of the biggest world powers to discuss when they meet.

But here is a strange thing: **In the political, ideological, and moral atmosphere that is gathering around this meeting, a key role is sometimes played, for some reason, by totally unconfirmed talk of some kind of "special danger" to the world situation in the sphere of the storage and dissemination of nuclear materials on the part of...Russia alone.**

Therefore the strong-state opposition is extremely concerned about the fact that the executive power has in effect reconciled itself to an extremely one-sided approach to Russia by a number of leading countries on nuclear safety questions.

"The quantity of thefts and exportation of radioactive substances from Russia is increasing.... The Russian leaders are incapable of controlling this process.... Such substances as uranium and plutonium are exported to the EU countries with no particular difficulty." That is the information background to the preparations for the Moscow meeting. And a careful analysis of all these processes provides an opportunity to trace the whole spectrum of numerous and diverse interests here.

We are aware that the transformation of B. Yeltsin, as Clinton's Russian friend and ally, into some kind of "nuclear bugaboo" is bound, of course, to be played as a trump card against the Democrats in the American election marathon.

But all the same, the main object of the Russian strong-state opposition's concern is that, on the eve of this Moscow summit meeting, the dominant force is the West's long-traditional desire to take advantage of troubles in Russia to ensure the destruction of the final remnants of our state's nuclear might. Including even the warheads removed from missiles subject to reduction under treaties that have come into force. And more — the accelerated destruction of Russian strategic arms and warheads designated for reduction under the START II Treaty which is still **unratified** by the State Duma.

The people's patriotic forces will continue, for their part, to put pressure on the executive with a view to minimizing the consequences of its passive policy on this key question of national security.

Yes, we take due note of the fact that only the discussion of questions of nuclear safety in the civilian sphere has been announced for the Moscow meeting. However, we do not rule out the possibility of the discussion of questions of the security of nuclear arms too (especially in the course of the planned Russian-U.S. bilateral meeting).

Russia "Presumed Guilty" for a Century To Come

Russian specialists must be given their due: They are doing everything in their power to ensure that the problem of nuclear safety in relation to our country

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does not arise, or even if it does arise, does not take on a threatening nature.

The lawmaking process in this sphere is probably proceeding more actively in our country than anywhere in the world. For instance, the Russian parliament (in circumstances in which people's patriotic forces have a responsible majority there) has drafted a law on the handling of radioactive waste. The following legal acts have also been adopted: on the population's radiation safety, on the protection of the natural environment and ecological expert studies, and a substantial package of decisions ensuring systematic measures in this sphere. In short, the Russian legislator has provided the necessary legal scope for energetic actions by our executive: the president and government.

And our concern is legitimate: Why are certain circles in the West today trying to turn the G-7 leaders' trip to Moscow into a kind of "inspection raid" by a prestigious world-level commission charged with dealing with an "unsatisfactory country" on the spot?

"Insufficiently reliable storage facilities for nuclear materials from Murmansk to Vladivostok," U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher gave this assessment recently, "constitute a threat to people's lives for a century to come. And this is a danger not only to Russia, but to other countries too." This expression prompts thoughts of a new version of the concept of the "Evil Empire," which has already played its ominous role in the moral and political justification of the destruction of the USSR. Even if this quotation is only a slip of the tongue by one of the statesmen invested with power who coordinate, in this case, American policy as a whole, and not the official view of the U.S. Administration.

We are aware that a presumption of Russia's irresponsibility as a state is being introduced surreptitiously into the practice of international relations, while a political inferiority complex is being inculcated in Russia itself. A precedent is being created for strengthening international tutelage. The prospects of the development of this process threaten to undermine and erode the national sovereignty of the Russian State.

The opposition realizes this. But is the present Russian executive aware of it? That is the question.

Yes, I repeat, we are in favor of international cooperation in the sphere of ensuring nuclear safety. However, the people's patriotic forces, being firmly committed to Russia's national interests, cannot but be concerned that in a matter that is very important to the country's security — on questions of the storage, control, and accounting of nuclear materials — it is losing its sovereignty step by step, becoming directly dependent on "aid" from other countries and from the international organizations which are in effect controlled by them.

A partial illustration is provided by the Nunn-Lugar program, under which, for instance, all funds for cooperation projects in the sphere of ensuring nuclear safety go only to the American defense complex. Furthermore it is not clear why all deliveries under this program are not subject to customs inspection, but Russia's complaints are not being considered.

We are also worried about the fact that the departmental agreements concluded by way of fleshing out the Nunn-Lugar program do not have to undergo the generally accepted procedure of ratification in the legislative organs.

There is no justification in our view, for instance, for the Russian leadership's initiative "unilaterally" to reprocess 500 tonnes (!) of highly enriched uranium, supposedly surplus to national defense requirements, into fuel for nuclear power stations. Why this hurry and haste on the part of the present ruling team?

And how are we to interpret the idea, currently getting extensive coverage in the United States, of handing over Russian and American stocks of plutonium and enriched uranium to a "third party," namely...France or Canada; in other words, to the United States' NATO partners? Is this acceptable from the viewpoint of Russia's state interests and security, even if you take into account France's special status within the North Atlantic bloc? I think not!

Surely the upshot is that under the banner of the struggle for nuclear safety, Russia's national-state security is being put in jeopardy.

Let Us Talk on Equal Terms

We, the people's patriotic opposition, advocate all-around dialogue and cooperation with the world around us, including the Western countries. This is in accordance with the national interests of Russia and of the Western states too. But we will not accept inequality in such relations, or their extreme ideologization. In international affairs, the essence of which is to protect countries' national-state interests, there can be no self-appointed "judges" or arbitrarily accused "defendants." After all, if that is the way things are going, Russia also has charges to lay against its Western partners on these same questions of ensuring nuclear safety.

Suffice it to refer, in this connection, to a document compiled by Russian specialists (and published in the open press) on violations of the control regime

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at facilities in the U.S. nuclear complex. It says: In 1989 and part of 1990 alone, at 39 of these complexes, 2,108 violations of this self-same nuclear safety were recorded. The official U.S. authorities cannot even say precisely how much plutonium they have in reprocessing and at the stage of recovery and purification.

It is not just anywhere, it is in the United States that very frightening precedents are being set. Here is just one case "highlighted" by the press: In 1992 a certain private individual walked into one of America's biggest nuclear laboratories and produced...7.3 kilograms of depleted uranium which he "inherited" from his father who had formerly worked at that same scientific center....

I wish to reaffirm that Russia respects the state dignity of the United States and does not make a propaganda show out of such cases, does not declare America to be a "threat to mankind," and does not try to pass off this or that official delegation as an "oversight commission" in the eyes of the world. And the Russian State is entitled to insist on the same respectful attitude to itself on the part of the United States. As yet, unfortunately, at every "convenient" opportunity they try to declare our country to be the "main danger."

The impression is created that when it comes to putting pressure on Russia, anything goes. In the light of the propaganda campaign of recent days and the entire approach to nuclear safety problems in certain leadership circles in the West, the Moscow G-7 meeting looks like more than just a routine exchange of opinions on measures to increase the safety of nuclear reactors and improve the storage of radioactive materials. All the indications are that an attempt is being made here to lay additional foundations for an integrated, aggressive anti-Russian foreign policy concept, for which purpose the summit-level discussions on nuclear safety are only a means of legitimizing the plans that are being elaborated. If only one could be sure that this is not so.

Socioeconomic Aspects of the Strengthening of Nuclear Safety

Let us think about it: What, today, stands in the way of the realization of all kinds of ideas and plans that are tirelessly (and to an even greater extent than before, in the Soviet era) directed against our country's interests? Not least, its strategic nuclear potential. Or rather, what is left of it. Because Gorbachev, and after him Yeltsin, have done everything to stifle our country's nuclear sector, among other things by turning our previous specialist cadres — the best graduates of world-standard higher educational establishments like the Moscow Engineering and Physics Institute, Moscow State University, Leningrad University, and the Kharkov and Kazan Aviation Institutes — into unemployed intellectuals and practically vagrants.

How can the executive claim to have any concern for security if these people, who are capable of maintaining and professionally guaranteeing it, are condemned to poverty on a wage of 400,000-500,000 rubles? Today they are being literally pushed out — if they are not too old — to work in all kinds of commercial organizations, where a speedy and thorough deprofessionalization awaits them. The older specialists, those of pension age, so to speak, are doomed to observe helplessly the disintegration and ruin of what they brought into being. Thus the elite of Russia's intellectual potential is heedlessly dissipated and Russia's future as a leader of technological progress is squandered.

How can the president and the cabinet of ministers claim to pay attention to Russia's security — not just nuclear, but public security in general — when today these professionals, world-famous scientists, are left with no alternative but to go to...rallies, and even perhaps to go on strike, in order to protest against the government's course of destroying Russia's intellectual potential?

We, the people's strong-state opposition, regard as absolutely impermissible any attempt once again to attack the last vestiges of our country's former scientific, technical, and defense potential, with the Moscow meeting being used as a moral and political bridgehead for this purpose. No matter what ostensibly serious arguments are used to support it.

The Figure Eight — a "Doughnut" Each for Russia and Ukraine?

The impression is that everything possible is being set in motion, even such highly politicized measures as the burning desire to drag Ukraine along, as a second "patient under observation," to the "club" of leading countries concerned about nuclear safety.

The logic and purpose of this maneuver are clear and were predicted long ago. Suffice it to recall the political scientist Zbigniew Brzezinski's theory about the need for the West to make every effort artificially to support Ukrainian independence. Because this alone, in his view, is capable of keeping some kind of curb on Russia.

But under cover of these gestures and phrases, frankly bizarre decisions are being arrived at. With the United States, Germany, and other Western countries (with the exception of France) vying with one another to declare Ukraine virtually a sphere of their own national interests. The aim is self-evident: to exploit the ambitions of certain Ukrainian leaders for anti-Ukrainian and, especially, anti-Russian purposes. Including the establishment of a kind of conflict-generating bipolarity on the

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territory of the former USSR. And it is not only a question of abstract games.

It cannot be ruled out that, acting on the old principle of "divide and rule," the Western side will try at the upcoming meeting to use Ukraine to force Russia to take new steps in dismantling its nuclear potential, and to use Russia to make Ukraine close the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station. As a result the two Slav countries will find themselves at the Moscow "summit" in the role of "defendants" facing a world "tribunal" of the seven "great" powers.

And as for the role of eighth member of the world elite, which is coveted by the Russian and Ukrainian authorities, it turns out that the tickets for this role have been sold, like tickets for a seat in the stalls at the theater, to two people at once: both Russia and Ukraine. So it transpires that instead of the honorary figure eight, each of them is promised only half of it, or more specifically, the hole in the "doughnut" — zilch.

One more observation in conclusion. We, the strong-state, people's patriotic opposition, note with concern that the consequence of the course of weakening Russia is, as many sociological services indicate, a corresponding growth in radical anti-American, anti-Western sentiments. And it is becoming increasingly obvious: Only recognition and consideration by G-7 of Russia's national-state interests in all spheres of international relations can halt the "tide" of such views and emotions over one-seventh of the world's territory. And when you take into account that the United States is now encountering the same problem in Japan, China, India, and a number of major Muslim countries (especially at the profound, subconscious level of their peoples' world outlook), the inclusion of Russia in this worldwide anti-Western ring cannot but promise to injure the security interests both of the United States itself and of its most anti-Russian partners in G-7.

Russia: Nuclear Summit Concerns, Prospects Previewed

MM1804195896 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Apr 96 p 1

[Article by Aleksandr Golts: "Alarm Bell Should Send Signal of Hope From Moscow"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An alarm bell set against a picture of the globe — the emblem of the summit meeting on nuclear safety issues which opens in Moscow today — very accurately conveys the essence of the event. Over the past few years, since the nuclear weapons reduction process began, mankind has recognized one other aspect of the nuclear threat. This is the threat posed by civilian nuclear installations, research reactors, and power stations (and it is very symbolic that the meeting will be held on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy). It is a threat posed not by already amassed mountains of weapons but by the gigantic and constantly increasing stockpiles of fissionable material which will have to be stored for hundreds of years to come. And the faster strategic disarmament proceeds, the faster those stockpiles will increase.

It is no secret that many foreign countries prefer, as they did during the years of nuclear confrontation, to see Russia and the other former Soviet republics as the main source of this new threat too. The logic is simple — the economic crisis and the disintegration of the former USSR's nuclear sector should have led to a weakening of control over both the storage of radioactive material and the functioning of AES' [nuclear electric power stations]. Add to that the fears that unowned material could be willingly utilized by countries trying to secretly develop their own nuclear bomb, as well as by all kinds of terrorist or extremist organizations. Let us be frank, certain political and financial circles in the West that do not balk at blatant provocation in order to discredit the new Russia in the eyes of the entire world have been trying to exploit these entirely legitimate public fears. And this has produced a corresponding reaction on our part. These are grounds that could quite easily produce new confrontation.

Here too we need to acknowledge the political boldness of the Russian president, who a year ago suggested to the leaders of the world's industrially developed states — the United States, Britain, France, the FRG, Japan, Canada, and Italy — that a conference on nuclear safety problems be held in Moscow. "The fact that Moscow is the venue for the nuclear safety summit is profoundly symbolic," a ranking Canadian Government spokesman stressed the other day. "It shows that Russia has become a full partner of the West." Thus, as a result of Russia's initiative, the world's leading states are embarking on the elaboration of joint approaches to this exceptionally complex problem instead of making claim and counterclaim.

And they are by no means starting from scratch. The United States and Russia are already taking a number of joint steps in this area. According to figures from the U.S. Department of Energy, 150 projects are currently being implemented which will result in improvements to the physical and operating conditions at 59 nuclear reactors in seven countries. Boris Yeltsin considers it necessary to create a multilateral mechanism aimed at ensuring the safety of nuclear power. Russia has stated its intention to invite foreign experts to assess safety standards at AES' with first-generation reactors. Moscow would like to get leading financial institutions

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involved in participation in international projects to strengthen nuclear power station safety. The fact that implementation of these plans will cost a lot of money is shown, apart from anything else, by the fact that the problem of the Chernobyl AES has not been finally resolved. It is thought that a decision on this matter will be made in Moscow.

Another exceptionally acute problem is the storage of nuclear waste and fissionable material from nuclear weapons that are being cut back. Here, thanks to joint work by Russian and American specialists, it has been possible to draw up an effective system to account for and monitor nuclear material. Over the past two years the United States, Russia, and the newly independent states have improved or agreed to improve safety at 75 percent of the installations where material which could be used to develop arms is stored. Boris Yeltsin has stated that there are 11 installations in Russia fitted with equipment developed with the participation of U.S. specialists. One of the biggest projects is the construction of a storage facility at the "Mayak" Production Association. It is planned to store 40 percent of Russia's weapons- grade plutonium there. Once construction is completed, it is proposed that the storage facility be placed under IAEA control.

Incidentally, the storage of nuclear material is not merely a problem for Russia and the other CIS countries. Owing to inadequate accounting procedures the United States itself was for a long time unable to "locate" almost three tonnes of weapons-grade plutonium. There have been reports of unaccounted-for kilograms of plutonium in Japan. The meeting could galvanize the development of unified standards in the sphere of physical protection, accounting procedures, and the monitoring of nuclear material.

Finally, the "G-7" will be focusing on the elaboration of measures to end illegal trafficking in nuclear material and to prevent terrorism in the nuclear sphere. It is high time that cooperation was organized between the special services in this sphere, including a mechanism for exchanging information.

As we can see, the agenda of the two-day "nuclear" summit is very wide-ranging. Consequently, we cannot fail to agree with the view of those experts who believe that we should not overload the "G-7" meeting with other, albeit extremely important problems, but ones with no direct bearing on nuclear safety. After all, on the eve of the meeting people will be trying to suggest such subjects for its participants. We need only mention the reports that have suddenly appeared in the foreign press about the construction of some military facility in Bashkiria that is allegedly capable of changing the strategic balance.

But the meeting participants are clearly geared to a search for consensus rather than conflict. Thus, a ranking U.S. Government spokesmen holding a briefing at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow stressed that the facility [in Bashkiria] is not a cause for concern, as Washington sees it.

Those attending the Moscow summit will clearly recognize their responsibility. If the leaders of the world's top powers succeed in giving new impetus to the joint work to ensure universal nuclear safety, it will be a signal of hope for all mankind. And it will be coming out of Moscow. [Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19-26 April 1996 carries on page 3 a Sergey Maslov report outlining the background to the summit which concludes: "The summit should be treated above all as a unique opportunity to achieve progress in developing an effective joint strategy on nuclear safety issues. It would be nice if this opportunity were grasped."]

Russia: Moscow Tightens Security for Nuclear Summit

MK1804100196 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 18 Apr 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Moscow Militia Put on Special Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As of today, all of Moscow's militia is being put on reinforced duty [usilennyy variant neseniya sluzhby]. Special security measures are being put into place in Moscow in connection with the upcoming Saturday meeting of the heads of the G-7 states, who will start arriving in Moscow today.

MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS was advised at Moscow's Internal Affairs Main Administration that all of the capital's guardians of law and order have had their days off and vacations canceled for the duration of these days. Sheremetyevo-2 and Vnukovo-2 airports have been placed under reinforced guard. Additional militia details are posted along all the city's avenues and main roads, as well as in the capital's downtown. The number of patrols has been increased several times over.

A special headquarters is being set up on the basis of Moscow's Internal Affairs Main Administration to uphold the security of the meeting, where staffers of the Russian Federation Main Protection Directorate will take an active part. Similar headquarters will appear in each administrative okrug of the capital.

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Members of the security services of the presidents who are coming to Moscow are already working for all they are worth.

The rush work [avral] will go on until Tuesday.

Russia: Clinton Arrives in St Petersburg; Itinerary Detailed

LD1804195796 St. Petersburg Fifth Channel Television Network in Russian 1825 GMT 18 Apr 96

[From the "Inform-TV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Good evening, it is 2226 in St. Petersburg. Andrey Radin in the studio with a special "Inform-TV" bulletin.

[Radin, over video of aircraft door being opened, steps being moved up, Clinton descending aircraft steps] Exactly nine minutes ago the government aircraft of U.S. President Bill Clinton landed at Pulkovo airport. [passage omitted] Having ended his Asian trip, U.S. President Clinton has started his Russian trip. [passage omitted]

The officials present include St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak, Leningrad Region Governor Aleksandr Belyakov, Colonel General Sergey Seleznev, commander of the Leningrad Military District, and also Aleksandr Kornilov, head of Leningrad naval base.

President Clinton's program in St. Petersburg is pretty packed. Clinton will depart from the airport to Tsarskoye Selo, where he will look round Catherine the Great's Palace. There will be a firework display in his honor there, and the museum orchestra will play the U.S. anthem.

Tomorrow morning the U.S. President will depart from the Grand Hotel Europe and go to the Piskarevskoye memorial cemetery, where he will lay flowers at the monument to the Motherland. [passage omitted]

After visiting Piskarevskoye memorial cemetery, Bill Clinton and his wife will look round the Russian Museum collection. The U.S. President is also to look round the Kazan Cathedral, and at 1400, Mikhail Pyatrovskiy, the director of the State Hermitage, will show Bill Clinton the treasures of one of the most famous museums in the world. [passage omitted]

Tomorrow afternoon Bill Clinton will leave for the Russian capital, where he will take part in the G-8 conference on nuclear security. [passage omitted]

But here is President Clinton coming down the aircraft steps — 2230 Moscow time, and the U.S. President treads on the soil of St. Petersburg, and greets Anatoliy Sobchak, the mayor of St. Petersburg. An exchange of greetings, and the first words on Russian soil.

It is very interesting, in fact, to observe the arrival of a U.S. president — no bodyguards, no officials, and the president comes down the aircraft steps first, on his own. [passage omitted]

Russia: Clinton Goes Sightseeing in St. Petersburg

LD1804195496 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton arrived in St. Petersburg on Thursday. Vladimir Zotov reports:

[Begin Zotov recording] Bill Clinton first visited the city on the Neva 26 years ago, as a tourist. Peter's city clearly made such an impression on him that, having now become president of America, Mr. Clinton decided to concentrate on a cultural program during his short visit and not to have any political talks. Immediately after arriving at Pulkovo airport, the U.S. President headed for Catherine's Palace in Pushkin. On Friday [19 April] morning Bill Clinton will visit the Piskarevka cemetery where he will lay a wreath at the memorial. The U.S. President also intends to visit the Hermitage, the Russian Museum, and Kazan Cathedral.

During his tour of the city Bill Clinton will be escorted by the St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak, the chairman of the city's legislative assembly, Yuriy Kravtsov, and other officials. [end recording]

Russia: Clinton Honors St. Petersburg's War Dead

LD1904084096 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0636 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] St. Petersburg, 19 Apr (ITAR-TASS) — U.S. President Bill Clinton today honored the memory of residents and defenders of Leningrad who fell in the cruel blockade during the years of the Great Fatherland War.

Just after 1000 this morning, to the accompaniment of solemn music, the President of the United States entered the avenues of the Piskarevskoye memorial cemetery — one of the most sorrowful places in the city on the Neva. Here, under a level rectangular common grave lie the remains of hundreds of thousands of people. After a minute of silence at the Eternal Flame, Bill Clinton walked past an honor guard to the Motherland monument and laid a wreath at the foot of it. The U.S. national anthem was played, and a company of the honor guard and a military orchestra marched ceremonially past the monument.

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Then the U.S. President signed the guests of honor book.

As he left the memorial complex, Bill Clinton made a speech to those present. He noted that the victims of the siege of Leningrad lie in this cemetery; for 900 days and nights they wrote one of the greatest chapters in the history of heroism. Today, however, on the anniversary of a major terrorist act in the United States, which occurred in Oklahoma City on 19 April last year, my heart is in my homeland, the president said. He called on everyone to cooperate for the common good of peoples, for the sake of freedom, so that our tomorrows are bright and clear.

Russia: British Premier Major Arrives for Summit

LD1804191196 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1833 GMT 18 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Yuriy Kozlov and Denis Perkin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 Apr — John Major, prime minister of Great Britain, today arrived in the Russian capital to attend the summit on nuclear safety. In addition to the meetings in the schedule of the Moscow summit, the program of the current visit by the head of the U.K. Government includes meetings with the Russian and U.S. presidents and with the Canadian prime minister.

On the way to Moscow John Major visited Kiev where he held talks with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma who is expected to arrive at the Moscow summit on Friday evening.

Russia: Major Attempts To 'Reassure' Russians on NATO Expansion

LD1904095396 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 0908 GMT 19 Apr 96

[By chief political correspondent Amanda Brown, PA News, in Moscow]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Prime Minister was today trying to steady Russian nerves over moves to include more eastern European states in Nato.

He has learned how fearful ordinary Russians are about Nato's expansion and the attempts by newly-liberalised countries, including Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland, to join.

Memories of the Cold War and Stalin's failure to persuade Nato to include the Soviet Union as a member — which led directly to the setting up of the Warsaw Pact — still loom large in the minds of many Russians.

This is despite the collapse of communism and the breathtaking pace of reforms evident everywhere.

Mr Major, who is in Moscow for the G-8 Nuclear summit, was interviewed by Russian journalists about what they perceive as the threat to their stability.

Germany is also viewed with suspicion, particularly as it has such a dominant role in post-war western Europe.

One reporter, describing the Prime Minister and U.S. President Bill Clinton as "good loyal politicians", said there was no room for complacency, adding: "Anything may happen. Our people fear this and they look at the prospect of Baltic states joining Nato. They don't want to be under its wing."

The Prime Minister tried to reassure his questioners by saying people were raising concerns "that are unreal".

He added: "We have to persuade people that what is happening in Nato is in no way a threat to Russia. We are looking for cooperation with Russia."

Nato wanted closer ties and the Partnership for Peace proposals were an indication of that.

Mr Major emphasised that Nato had changed since the end of the Cold War and now sent troops into trouble spots round the world.

Many nuclear weapons had also been removed from European soil.

"There is no threatening atmosphere from Nato as far as Russia is concerned and enlargement will be a measured, open and transparent process."

Asked by one journalist if he could foresee a day when Russia would join Nato, Mr Major replied: "It clearly isn't going to happen for a long time, but in no way is enlargement a threat."

Russia: Japanese Prime Minister Arrives for Nuclear Summit

LD1804201896 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1931 GMT 18 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Andrey Varlamov and Denis Perkin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 Apr — Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto arrived in Moscow today to take part in the G-8 summit on nuclear safety due on 19 April.

During his two-day visit to Russia, the Japanese prime minister will also meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The prime minister of Japan, the only Asian country to be represented at the summit, is expected to come forward with the initiative to hold a similar meeting on nuclear safety in Asia.

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Tokyo attaches great importance to Hashimoto's trip to Moscow as part of support for the Russian reforms, personified by President Boris Yeltsin from Tokyo's point of view, Kadzukhiko Togo, a councillor and envoy from the Japanese embassy to Russia, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent yesterday. He said that this "will be announced" by the prime minister at a meeting in the Kremlin.

The last meeting between the leaders of the two states took place in October 1993, when Russian President Boris Yeltsin came to Tokyo on an official visit.

Russia: Hashimoto: Nuclear Dumping 'Top Priority' for Yeltsin Talks

OW1904002896 Tokyo KYODO in English 0002 GMT 18 Apr 96

[By Mie Kawashima]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 19 KYODO — Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said his top priority in a meeting Friday [19 April] with Russian President Boris Yeltsin is to get a promise that Russia will not dump nuclear waste into the sea near Japan anymore.

"What I want most is to get word from the Russian side that it will end the dumping of nuclear waste into the sea," said Hashimoto, who flew into Moscow on Thursday night to attend a nuclear safety summit and to meet Yeltsin.

Speaking to reporters aboard a government plane from Tokyo to Moscow, the prime minister said he will relay to Yeltsin that Japan is prepared to provide necessary cooperation for Moscow to help stop nuclear waste dumping.

Russia dumped roughly 900 tons of liquid radioactive waste into the Sea of Japan in October 1993, but canceled another dumping plan following protests from Japan and South Korea.

Hashimoto also said it is a "matter of course" that the two leaders will discuss a decades-long bilateral territorial dispute over four Russian-held islands off northern Japan, but added that he wants to avoid it being a source of political issues in Russia's June presidential election campaigns.

The prime minister said he only hopes to confirm with Yeltsin the 1993 joint document which acknowledged the existence of the territorial issue, and make sure that Japan and Russia will deal with it after the presidential election.

In the Tokyo Declaration issued by Yeltsin and then Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, the two countries agreed to conclude a peace treaty after resolving the territorial dispute based on the principles of "law and justice."

The disputed islands off Japan's northernmost main island Hokkaido — Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan Islands and the Habomai group of islets — were seized by the former Soviet Union after World War II.

Friday's meeting between Hashimoto and Yeltsin is the first Japan-Russia summit meeting Yeltsin visited Japan in October 1993 and held talks in Tokyo with Hosokawa.

Hashimoto's visit to Moscow is also the first by a Japanese prime minister since Yasuhiro Nakasone attended the state funeral of Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko and met with his successor Mikhail Gorbachev in 1985.

Leaders of the world's seven major economic powers, Russia and Ukraine will kick off a two-day nuclear safety summit later Friday with a leaders' working dinner.

Besides Hashimoto and Yeltsin, U.S. President Bill Clinton, British Prime Minister John Major, French President Jacques Chirac, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Italian Prime Minister Lamberto Dini and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien will attend the summit.

On Saturday, the leaders will hold two rounds of summit meetings and a working lunch, which will be followed by a joint press conference by summit co-chairmen Yeltsin and Chirac.

Hashimoto will also hold a separate press conference that day.

Hashimoto said the summit aims that Western leaders demonstrate support for Russian reform drives, while improving nuclear safety on the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster April 26, 1986, in Ukraine and dismantling of nuclear weapons in former Soviet republics.

Russia: French President Arrives for Summit in Moscow

LD1904122596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1139 GMT 19 Apr 96

[By Nikolay Kalintsev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 19 (Itar-Tass) — President of France Jacques Chirac today arrived to the Russian capital to take part in the Moscow nuclear security summit on Saturday.

Chirac is due to act as the summit co-chairman together with his Russian counterpart, Boris Yeltsin.

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The French President was welcomed to Moscow on the tarmac of Vnukovo-2 airport by First Vice-Premier of the Russian Government Oleg Soskovets.

The Russian and French Presidents are due to hold a one-to-one meeting today for a last-minute review of the details of the Moscow nuclear security summit.

Informed sources said that their talks would also touch upon Russo-French bilateral relations and lead to the signing of a joint agreement on cooperation in the field of nuclear safety and security.

Later today, the two presidents' press secretaries, Sergey Medvedev and Catherine Colonna, will meet journalists.

After the summit on Saturday, Jacques Chirac and Boris Yeltsin will hold a joint press conference on its results.

Before leaving Moscow, the French head of state will meet for talks with President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma.

Russia: German Chancellor Kohl Arrives in Moscow for G-7 Summit

LD1904105496 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1035 GMT 19 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Nikolay Kalintsev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Apr (ITAR-TASS) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl arrived in Moscow to attend the G-7 Moscow summit on nuclear safety. He was met by First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets.

ITAR-TASS learned from German diplomatic sources that Chancellor Kohl will head for the Kremlin immediately on his arrival. He will meet with President Boris Yeltsin for talks in the Kremlin. He is also scheduled to meet with Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien today.

Official Bonn ascribes major importance to the Moscow summit of the leaders of eight states, regarding it as "a most important and unique event." In the opinion of the German leadership, the summit will show the responsibility of its participants for nuclear safety in the whole world and at the same time confidence in the process of democratic and economic reforms in Russia.

Germany hopes that the leading powers will confirm their responsibility for improving safety levels of atomic power stations in Eastern Europe and will pass a specific program of interaction in this sphere on the basis of the decisions made by the G-7 in Munich four years ago.

Russia: EU's Santer Arrives for Summit; To Meet With Yeltsin

LD1804193296 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1838 GMT 18 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 Apr — European Commission President Jacques Santer arrived in the Russian capital today to take part in the summit meeting on nuclear security. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed at the European Commission's mission in Moscow that the program for Jacques Santer's visit includes scheduled meetings with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Like other CIS and eastern European countries Russia can continue to count on technical and financial aid from the EU to ensure the safety of the nuclear power stations in its territory, Jacques Santer stated on the eve of the summit. He spoke of the EU's readiness to continue its efforts to give assistance "in eliminating shortcomings in the design of nuclear reactors and ensuring their optimum operational safety" in accordance with strict international standards.

Russia: Yeltsin Sends Letter on Chechnya to Moroccan King

LD1904103296 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0959 GMT 19 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Lagutin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Rabat, 19 Apr (ITAR-TASS) — Morocco's King Hassan II received a letter from Russian President Boris Yeltsin which mainly touches on the Chechen settlement, the ITAR-TASS correspondent learned today from sources close to the Moroccan Government.

Yesterday the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation said that Rabat is prepared to mediate in the Chechen settlement. The Foreign Ministry's statement said that "in light of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's statement about a possible mediating mission of King Hassan II, Morocco declares its readiness to act as an intermediary with the aim of stopping the conflict in Chechnya." [passage omitted]

Russia: Yeltsin Orders Primakov to Israel, Syria, Lebanon for Talks

LD1904104996 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1023 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Apr (ITAR-TASS) — A statement by Russian President Boris Yeltsin forwarded to ITAR-TASS today says:

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"We are shocked by reports of a new tragedy in Lebanon. The Israeli Army has shelled a UN base, killing dozens of civilians who sought sanctuary there. There are also casualties among the peacekeeping contingent. I express my sincere condolences to Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, to the people of Lebanon, and to the UN forces.

"I must say with absolute certainty that what is happening in Lebanon is totally unacceptable. Russia made this clear at the outset of the armed conflict. The Israeli military operation in Lebanon must be halted immediately. One must put an end to this total infringement of the sovereignty of Lebanon, which will lead to a real humanitarian catastrophe in that country. Obviously, one should also ensure that the shelling of Northern Israel is also stopped. Otherwise, the whole process of a peaceful settlement in the Middle East will be undermined. Being a co-sponsor of the peace process, Russia cannot but be concerned over this.

"In order to facilitate the process of reaching an agreement on an immediate cease-fire in Lebanon, and to settle the crisis situation in the Middle East, I have decided to send, within the next 24 hours, Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov to hold urgent meetings with the leaders of Syria, Lebanon, and Israel."

Russia: Panov: Yeltsin Will Not Sign Territory Deals With China

LD1804163696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 18 (Interfax) — Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov has denied claims that President Boris Yeltsin will sign an agreement on the surrender of Russian territories during his visit to China beginning on April 24.

"We are planning nothing of the kind," he told a Thursday news conference.

Moreover, the border demarcation issue is not expected to be discussed during the visit at all, Panov said.

He was alarmed by recent attempts to inflate the matter of border demarcation on its eastern section. "The purpose of that campaign is to undermine and spoil relations with China, and that is a very dangerous road," the top diplomat said.

He said the Russian side would work to complete the demarcation process. "It is a question of what relations we are going to have with China, whether we will return to the age of confrontation or advance to neighborliness and the formation of a legally protected, peaceful border," the deputy minister said.

The denunciation of the 1991 border agreement would be the first step to a breakup with China, he said.

He said the attacks on the agreement began with the appearance of a new administration in the Maritime territory in Russia's Far East. Protests concerned three regions: Khankay, Ussuriy and Khasan.

The administration has dropped the complaints concerning Khankay, Panov said. As for the two other sections, demarcation is not being conducted there now, he said.

"We are seeking the most optimum solutions concerning the two sections at talks with China in order to take the opinion of the local people into account," Panov said.

The agreement will be fully in force only when demarcation is completed on all sections, he said. "If we do not do that, we will have a legally unprotected border and we could not accept that," the official stressed.

He denied claims of confrontation between the Foreign Ministry and the presidential administration over the border issue. "All the agencies involved in the demarcation process, including the Foreign and Defense ministries and the Federal Border Service, hold a common view," he said.

He described Beijing's official attitude to the issue as very reserved. However, according to him, there is talk in China that if the demarcation is not completed, Beijing may renew claims to over 1.5 million square kilometers of Russian territory.

Russia: Moscow Expresses Approval for U.S.-Japan Declaration

LD1804164896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1636 GMT 18 Apr 96

[By Andrey Varlamov, Andrey Kirillov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 18 (Itar-Tass) — Moscow is satisfied with the Russia-concerning section of the Japan-U.S. declaration concluding the visit of U.S. President Bill Clinton to Japan.

"Moscow has been specially informed about the content of the part of the Japanese-American declaration on the results of Bill Clinton's visit to Tokyo which concerns Russia and finds it positive enough," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov told Itar-Tass today.

He said the declaration "recognizes the role of Russia as a most important, largest Asia-Pacific power with its interests, and contains a provision that both the U.S. and Japan will continue to assist our reforms," Panov said.

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However, he declined to comment on the declaration-reflected tendency of the Japanese-American cooperation to expand over the entire Asia-Pacific region, saying that this issue "requires additional study".

Russia: Lukin: War Will Restart in Abkhazia if Peacekeepers Leave

LD1804171296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1601 GMT 18 Apr 96

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 18 (Itar-Tass) — Hostilities will re-start in Georgia's breakaway enclave of Abkhazia if CIS peacekeeping forces quit it, said Vladimir Lukin, Russian State Duma International Affairs Committee.

"Once there has been a war (with Abkhazia) and the Georgian parliamentarians know well how it ended," Lukin told Itar-Tass today, commenting on the resolution on settlement in Abkhazia passed by the Georgian parliament on Wednesday.

The resolution in particular says that CIS peacekeeping forces had not been able to ensure a safe return for refugees.

If Georgia's proposals are not heeded in a new mandate for the peacekeepers, they should be moved from the conflict area within two months, the resolution says.

If the Georgian parliament wants the peacekeepers out, "well, we will leave, this just makes things easier for us," Lukin said.

"However, it is better to carry on stubborn, insistent talks ending in a compromise rather than in an unambiguous decision in favour of this or other party to the conflict," Lukin said.

Meanwhile, "both parties to the conflict want to decide the matter exceptionally on their own terms," he said.

"But the side which had been beat has to be especially able of the compromise," Lukin said.

Russia: Ban Requested on U.S. Chicken Imports

LD1804143096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1256 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 18 (Interfax) — Russia's State Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision has requested a ban on the import of minced chicken meat from the United States, saying it is bacteriologically contaminated, committee chief Yevgeniy Belyayev has said in an interview.

Belyayev said that substandard minced chicken meat was imported from the United States by private Russian firms, primarily to Russia's Far Eastern regions.

Belyayev said he hoped that Washington's response to Moscow's decision to stop minced chicken meat imports would be normal, because that question had already been discussed and coordinated with American officials.

"There will be no excesses or political protests on the part of the United States following the ban on minced chicken meat import," Belyayev said. He explained that the amount of minced chicken meat imported from the United States was very insignificant as compared with the supplies of chicken quarters, which were at the focus of recent discussions between the two sides.

Russia: Scientist Claims Russia, U.S. Possess Mini-Nuclear Weapons

LD1804151396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1256 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Apr 18 (Interfax) — Russia and the United States possess miniature nuclear weapons that should be outlawed and destroyed without delay, Academician Aleksey Yablokov, who leads Russia's Ecological Policy Center, told a conference of public organizations on nuclear safety in Moscow on Thursday.

He said that Russia possesses miniature nuclear arms made in the form of a suitcase (weighing 25-27 kilos) or a rucksack (about 30 kilos). Such nuclear bombs present an enormous danger to humanity - "a much greater danger than the leaks of radioactive materials the world press writes about so much," Yablokov said.

The French president issued a special directive to ban the building of such miniature nuclear bombs in France, he pointed out.

Russia: Mikhaylov: Moscow Exerts Efforts To Ensure Nuclear Safety

LD1804155196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1531 GMT 18 Apr 96

[By Veronika Romanenkova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW April 18 (Itar-Tass) — Russia has exerted most vigorous efforts promptly to concentrate all Soviet nuclear arms in its territory. The last stage of this work — the withdrawal of nuclear arsenals from Belarus and Ukraine and their dismantling — is concluded in 1996, Viktor Mikhaylov, the Russian Minister for Nuclear Energy, told on Thursday a news conference in the runup to the Moscow summit of eight countries on nuclear safety.

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The Russian side expects similar steps from foreign countries. It is in the interests of eight countries to ensure that nuclear arms of all nuclear countries be concentrated within the limits of their own territories, This is said in papers circulated at the news conference. They were prepared by Russian experts for the summit. In this connection, eastward expansion of NATO with its nuclear arsenal causes natural concern, it is stated in the papers.

The Russian side also emphasises the need of assistance to control functions of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) by eight countries. The Agency should introduce an effective system for spotting possible concealed nuclear activity at early stages of development, particularly in regions causing concern as regards observance of non-proliferation of nuclear arms.

Among Russia's initiatives, Mikhaylov cited "an unprecedented step by Russia which stated for utilisation 500 tonnes of weapons-grade uranium, superfluous for national defence, and its use for the manufacture of fuel for nuclear power stations". Six tonnes of this radioactive material was utilized last year and another 12 tonnes is planned to be utilized this year.

A storage for materials resulting from the dismantling of nuclear charges, above all plutonium, is now being built with the United States participation in the territory of the production amalgamation Mayak, The Chelyabinks region. Some 40 tonnes of stocks of Russia's weapons-grade plutonium will be kept in that entombment. After the construction is completed the storage will be placed under IAEA control.

Russia: Decree on Funding for Military Contingent in Bosnia

MM1804150396 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Apr 96 p 4

[Russian Federation Government decree No. 402, dated Moscow, 3 April 1996 and signed by Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin: "On Providing for the Russian Federation Armed Forces Contingent Sent To Participate in the Multinational Force's Peacekeeping Operation To Fulfill the General Framework Agreement on Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina," — from the 'Documents' section]

[FBIS Translated Text] In fulfillment of the Russian Federation president's edict No. 195 of 14 February 1996 "On Sending a Russian Federation Armed Forces Contingent To Participate in the Multinational Force's Peacekeeping Operation To Fulfill the General Framework Agreement on Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina," the Russian Federation Government decrees:

1. It is prescribed that material and financial provision for the Russian Federation Armed Forces contingent (hereinafter the Russian military contingent) sent to participate in the multinational force's peacekeeping operation to fulfill the General Framework Agreement on Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina of 14 December 1995 (hereinafter the peacekeeping operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina) is ensured in accordance with the procedure applied with regard to Russian specialists sent abroad by the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense to provide technical assistance and other services.

The costs of maintaining the Russian military contingent are to be met:

in foreign currency — out of the funds provided for in the federal budget to fund expenditure associated with international activity;

in rubles — out of the Russian Federation Government's reserve fund for the prevention and elimination of emergency situations and the consequences of natural disasters.

2. Salaries are established for the Russian military contingent sent to participate in the peacekeeping operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina in foreign currency in accordance with Russian Federation Government directive No. 1678 of 4 December 1995, based on the salaries of leaders of Russian Federation establishments in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

3. The Russian military contingent sent to participate in the peacekeeping operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is to retain payment in rubles of 100 percent of the salaries relating to military rank and the military job assignment at the last place of service, the percentage increment for length of service, and the increment for special service conditions.

4. Points 2 and 3 of this decree are to extend to the Russian Federation Armed Forces contingent sent to participate in the UN peacekeeping operation in the former Yugoslavia before the end of the implementation of this operation.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government

Russia: Yeltsin Act on Council of Europe Membership

MM1804133696 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Apr 96 p 3

[Directive of the Russian Federation President No. 188 "On Measures To Support the Participation of the Russian Federation in the Council of Europe," dated 13 April 1996 and signed by Russian Federation President

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B. Yeltsin, followed by "List of Acts of the Russian Federation President Deemed Invalid" — from the "Documents" section]

[FBIS Translated Text] With a view to coordinating the activity of the federal organs of state power aimed at supporting the participation of the Russian Federation in the Council of Europe:

1. To form the Russian Federation Interdepartmental Commission for Affairs of the Council of Europe (hereinafter — the Interdepartmental Commission). To appoint I.S. Ivanov, state secretary and first deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation, chairman of the Interdepartmental Commission.

The chairman of the Interdepartmental Commission is to submit within one month for ratification by the Russian Federation president the draft of a statute on the Russian Federation Interdepartmental Commission for Affairs of the Council of Europe and proposals on its composition.

2. To instruct the Interdepartmental Commission:

to submit within two months for ratification by the Russian Federation foreign minister the candidacies of representatives of the Russian Federation in the working organs of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers and inform the Council of Europe of the appointments made;

to submit to the Russian Federation Government within six months proposals on the participation of the Russian Federation in international organs and organizations with an autonomous budget operating under the Council of Europe;

to submit, together with the Russian Ministry of Justice, to the Russian Federation Government within six months proposals on the participation of the Russian Federation in Council of Europe conventions.

3. In connection with the need to bring the legal procedure in effect in the Russian Federation into line with international commitments ensuing from its membership in the Council of Europe, to instruct the Interdepartmental Commission:

to form within one month a working group for legal cooperation with the Council of Europe, tasking it with the preparation of a draft federal program for improving legislation and legal practice in accordance with the standards of the Council of Europe, as well as with the functions of a steering committee for implementing the two-year program, ratified by the Commission of the European Communities and the Council of Europe, for promoting reforms in the Russian Federation;

to submit to the Russian Federation Government within two months the draft of the federal program, coordinated with the Russian Ministry of Justice, for improving legislation and legal practice in accordance with the standards of the Council of Europe, as prepared by the working group.

To entrust support for the activity of the working group for legal cooperation with the Council of Europe to the Russian Federation President's Main State-Legal Administration.

4. The Russian Federation Government is to open in Strasbourg within two months a Russian Federation permanent mission to the Council of Europe, retaining the existing Russian Federation Consulate General in Strasbourg as an autonomous institution abroad.

5. The Russian Federation Foreign Ministry is to do the following within two months:

conclude the formation, within the structure of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Moscow State Institute for International Relations (University), an Institute of European Law as the chief teaching and scientific center for training, retraining, and enhancing the skills of specialists in the relevant sphere;

to submit to the Russian Federation Government proposals on the formation within the Russian Foreign Ministry structure of the post of government plenipotentiary attached to the monitoring organs of the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Basic Freedoms.

6. To deem invalid acts of the Russian Federation president in the attached list.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
13 April 1996
No. 188

List of Acts of the Russian Federation President Deemed Invalid

1. Directive No. 328 of the Russian Federation president dated 26 June 1992 "On Preparatory Measures for the Entry of the Russian Federation Into the Council of Europe" (VEDOMOSTI SYEZDA NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII I VERKHOVNOGO SOVETA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, 1992, No. 28, p. 1643).

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2. Directive No. 359 of the Russian Federation president dated 4 August 1995 "On the Creation of an Interdepartmental Commission To Prepare For the Entry of the Russian Federation Into the Council of Europe" (SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, 1995, No. 32, p. 3295).

3. Directive No. 497 of the Russian Federation president dated 7 November 1995 "On the Ratification of the Statute on the Interdepartmental Commission To Prepare For the Entry of the Russian Federation Into the Council of Europe" (SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, 1995, No. 46, p. 4419).

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Political Issues

Russia: Chernomyrdin Says Privatisation To Continue

LD1804140596 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1300 GMT 18 Apr 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Russia's main present-day problems were on the agenda of a government meeting. [passage omitted]

The Russian Government was today united in the view that, despite errors, the process of privatisation should be continued.

[begin Chernomyrdin recording] I don't think that anyone would dare to say [pauses] and it would be strange if no mistakes have been made in such a great undertaking. Without privatisation reforms are not worth mentioning. They simply could not have happened, they are impossible. We will go ahead with privatisation. But at the same time, we will take into account what we have already learned. I agree and I'm convinced that the time of urgency has already passed. We will go ahead but this time without rush, in a well thought-out manner. And if we lack skills, we must teach and learn without being shy about it. [end recording]

Russia: Zaveryukha: Yeltsin Edicts To Promote Agriculture Reforms

LD1804172296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 18 (Interfax) — The practice of adopting presidential decrees when reforms in agriculture are hindered by the slow approval of legislation in parliament is fully justified, Deputy Prime Minister in charge of agriculture Aleksandr Zaveryukha told a Moscow news conference Thursday.

He said the three decrees signed by President Boris Yeltsin in March and April "help to deepen the land reform and guarantee food supplies." The decrees deal with real estate mortgage, the enforcement of land ownership rights and stabilization in agriculture and related industries.

According to Zaveryukha, the third decree will not affect the size of federal budget support or the budget as a whole. It frees farm producers of the debts related to the 1995 commodity loan (5.1 trillion rubles) till 1998 and centralized loans issued in 1992-1994 at 213 percent interest (21 trillion) till 2005. The official said the belated payments were earlier transferred to the federal government debt.

Zaveryukha saw no tragedy in the approval of the land code by the Duma in the second reading Wednesday. In his opinion Yeltsin will never agree to sign it in its present form because the code denies any possibility of private land ownership without which more efficient farming is impossible.

He said the Cabinet approved draft amendments Thursday to acting legislation on the establishment of property rights over surplus plots used by individuals.

Russia: Yeltsin Amends State Service, Cadres Statute

MM1804144896 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Apr 96 p 4

[Russian Federation Presidential Edict 538 "On Making Changes to the Statute on the Russian Federation President's Main Administration on Questions of State Service and Cadres Approved by Russian Federation Presidential Edict 344 of 7 March 1996," signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin on 13 April 1996 — from the 'Documents' section]

[FBIS Translated Text] The following changes are to be made to the Statute on the Russian Federation President's Main Administration on Questions of State Service and Cadres approved by Russian Federation Presidential Edict 344 of 7 March 1996:

In Paragraph 5 of Point 3, delete the words "and state secrets";

make Point 9 read as follows:

"9. For the purpose of ensuring control over compliance with Russian Federation legislation on state service the Main Administration verifies compliance with the limitations associated with state service on the part of state employees on the Russian Federation Presidential Staff, including those who hold top state posts."

[signed] B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation

[dated] 13 April 1996
No. 538

Russia: Directive on Structure, Function of Situation Center

MM1904082796 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Apr 96 p 4

[Untitled Russian Federation Presidential Directive 171 signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin on 9 April 1996 — from the 'Documents' section]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. The FAPSI [Federal Government Communications and Information Agency] is

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entrusted with responsibility for the functioning and development of the systems of the Russian Federation president's Situation Center (hereinafter — the Situation Center).

The FAPSI general director is to allocate staffers to ensure the 24-hour operation of the Situation Center.

2. It is laid down that overall leadership of the Situation Center is exercised by the leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff.

3. The leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff and the FAPSI general director are to define the procedure for the functioning of the Situation Center.

4. Federal organs of executive power, organs of executive power of the Russian Federation's components, and the Russian Federation president's plenipotentiary representatives in the Russian Federation's components are to submit to the Situation Center the informational and analytical materials the Russian Federation president needs in order to make decisions on questions which the Russian Federation Constitution assigns to his competence.

[signed] B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation

[dated] 9 April 1996
No. 171

Russia: Yeltsin Edict on Boosting Pension Payments, Support

MM1904113396 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Apr 96 p 1

[Edict No. 550 of the Russian Federation President "On Urgent Measures To Improve Pension Provision for Russian Federation Citizens" signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin on 15 April 1996; under the headline "Something Extra for the Pensioner's Pocket"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With a view to improving pension provision for Russian Federation citizens and raising the living standard of pensioners, I decree:

1. As of 1 May 1996 to double compensation payments to pensioners who receive the minimum pension established by the Federal Law "On Raising the Minimum Pension and on the Procedure for Indexation and the Recalculation of State Pensions in the Russian Federation" [SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, 1995, No. 45, p. 4236] from 75,000 rubles [R] to R150,000 a month.

Differentiated compensation payments will be established for people who are receiving a pension of over R63,250 a month but not exceeding R128,250 a month, so that the total pension and compensation payment they receive amounts to R213,250 a month.

Compensation payments will be increased from R75,000 to R85,000 a month for people whose pension exceeds R128,250 a month.

Compensation payments are established for pensions set in accordance with the RSFSR Law "On State Pensions in the RSFSR" and the Russian Federation Laws "On State Guarantees and Compensation for People Working and Living in Areas of the Extreme North and Similar Localities" and "On Pension Provision for Parents of Servicemen Who Died While Drafted for Military Service."

2. Pensioners who live in regions where regional wage coefficients have been established will have their compensation payments stipulated in Point 1 of the present edict raised on the basis of this coefficient.

3. To establish that pensions set and recalculated after 1 May 1996 will be increased by the amount of compensation payment indicated in Point 1 of the present edict.

4. To pay the compensation envisaged in the present edict out of sources from which the corresponding pensions are paid.

5. In order to remove shortcomings in the current system of pension provision, and given the need to establish fuller correspondence between the size of pension and a citizen's labor contribution, to deem it expedient to transfer to a new system of determining the size of pensions on the basis of an individual coefficient established for every pensioner and dependent on the amount of average monthly earnings throughout the country as a whole.

To recommend to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly chambers, together with the Russian Federation Government, that they complete work on the draft of the relevant federal law, having envisaged the phased implementation of its norms in respect of the Russian Federation Pension Fund budget and the 1997 federal budget.

6. To approve the initiative of organizations which use their own funds to give material support to pensioners who are their former employees.

7. To recommend to the organs of executive power of the Russian Federation components and to chiefs of organizations that they adopt measures to ensure regular monetary payments and other forms of support to pensioners.

[signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

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[dated] Moscow, the Kremlin, 15 April 1996
No. 550

Russia: Moscow To Adopt Measures To Protect Domestic Market

LD1804135496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0958 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 18 (Interfax) — The Russian government plans to adopt several measures to protect the domestic market from imported goods of low quality before June 1, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told a Cabinet session Thursday.

He demanded the departments in charge of supervision of the quality of goods sold on the Russian market present a package of proposals to improve the situation.

Chernomyrdin also assessed the situation with the system of state control in the sphere of imports as unsatisfactory. "It is not only inefficient, clumsy, errs towards monopolism and bad coordination of actions between different departments," Chernomyrdin said. "The thing is that the whole system is turned as if into the past. It goes wide of the target, ignoring the new problems facing the Russian economy."

The share of imported goods on the country's consumer market exceeded 50 percent for the first time in 1995, and many imported goods have gained a monopoly position on the domestic market. "In the situation where the market is rather saturated with goods, an uncontrolled growth of imports may inflict, and sometimes is already inflicting, substantial damage to the interests of Russian goods producers," Chernomyrdin said.

It is impossible to resolve this problem only by bans and protective import tariffs, he said. Measures declaring bans are incompatible with the demands of open economy. Chernomyrdin sees the way out "in developing, strengthening and encouraging an honest, conscientious and civilized competition on our domestic market." First of all, this raises the question of "competition in terms of the quality of the goods," he added.

Corresponding Russian departments must focus their efforts to increase efficient control over quality on the borders of Russia's customs territory before June 1, to analyze the efficiency of activity of state bodies that verify the quality of goods, and to develop proposals to improve the system of quality certification of imported goods.

Russian Economic Minister Yevgeniy Yasin reported that 8 percent of inspected goods were rejected last year. These figures are much higher with respect to several kinds of food products. For example, a total of 36 percent of imported butter and 38 percent of vegetable oil were recognized as unfit for sale on the market, according to the Economics Ministry.

A great number of imported goods of poor quality is transported from countries within the Commonwealth of Independent States and countries in South-Eastern Asia, Yasin said.

He proposed the preparation of a draft interstate agreement on sanitary control and certification of products in the regions of their manufacture within the CIS. He also deems it necessary to speed up the work within the government aimed at preparation of the draft federal decree "On the Quality and Safety of Food Production."

Military & Nuclear Issues

Russia: Grachev's Visit to Chebarkul Garrison Reported

MM1804115696 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Pelts: "Russian Federation Defense Minister Inspects Urals Military District Troops"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 17 April Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev visited the Chebarkul garrison. A guard's tank combined unit is deployed here. The guardsmen were transferred here from Czechoslovakia [as published]. Recently the tankmen, who are under the command of Guard's Major General Aleksey Maslov, have not only successfully resolved all the problems connected with settling down in their new location but have also organized a planned combat exercise. During the inspection of the tank combined unit, Army Gen. Pavel Grachev attended a battalion tactical exercise under the command of Major Yuriy Kirillov. Analyzing the tankmen's actions the defense minister expressed a number of criticisms but nevertheless noted with satisfaction that combat training here is organized properly.

Afterwards Army Gen. Pavel Grachev visited the Uralaz Joint-Stock Company where he was shown new types of equipment and where he also signed an agreement between the Defense Ministry and the joint-stock company for the supply of 3,000 vehicles to the Russian Federation Armed Forces. All these vehicles not only have enhanced off-road capability but also have light armor protection.

During the meeting with personnel of the guard's tank combined unit, the defense minister noted that he is completely satisfied with the results of the district troops' combat training in the past training period.

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Russia: Moscow Increases Security for Nuclear Summit

LD1804175696 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 18 Apr 96

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] REUTER reports that Gennadiy Zyuganov, chairman of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, has received from President Bill Clinton an invitation to an audience in the residence of the U.S. ambassador in Russia.

Bill Clinton is expected in St. Petersburg today and he will arrive in Moscow tomorrow to take part in the Moscow nuclear safety summit in which leaders of Canada, Japan, Great Britain, France, the FRG, and European Commission will take part.

In connection with this meeting, Moscow militia staff have been told that there will be no days off for them this week. Nikolay Nikolayev will continue the theme.

[begin recording] [Nikolayev] For the second day now the law enforcement services of the capital have been working according to a tighter regime. This time, the reason for such measures is the special conference of G-8 countries on nuclear security issues that begins in Moscow on 19 April.

On the threshold of the government summit, the city Main Directorate of Internal Affairs [GUVD], the Main Guard Directorate [Glavnoye Upravleniye Okhrany], and the Presidential Security Service have tightened control over facilities that will be visited by the lofty guests. The guards have not neglected the hotels in which the foreign representatives will be staying either. For instance, at the Hotel Metropol, everybody attempting to park a car is checked.

[Unidentified militia man] Inspections, constant checking of documents — well, you know what kind of people are given special attention.

[Nikolayev] What kind of people? Of Caucasian nationality? [video shows airport] The landing zones of Vnukovo and Sheremetevo airports have been taken under special guard, as have the routes along which the participants in the summit will travel.

Thanks to a special topographical book for official use that was published recently in which any building in the city figures, all cellars and lofts in houses along Leninskiy and Leningradskiy Avenues have been identified and studied.

[German Layevskiy, deputy chief of Public Security Police, Moscow GUVD] All lofts and cellars have been checked along all the routes. They have all been closed off, blocked up where necessary. There are people sitting where necessary.

[Nikolayev] The special services are afraid that an act of provocation, an act of terrorism, or a diversion may compromise or even thwart the summit.

[Layevskiy] As long as confrontation with Dudayev formations, as long as shooting continues everywhere, we realize, like all normal people do, that anybody can get up to anything.

[Nikolayev] The veil of secrecy surrounding security measures can be easily explained. People in epaulets think that such secrecy is the tradition of special services of any state. It is known that an operational headquarters coordinating the actions of all Russian law enforcement departments has been set up on Petrovka-38 street.

It is intended that there will be 2,500 militia alone on duty on 19-20 April. The Moscow Metro is one of the facilities that is under the greatest control. It is possible that the lofty guests will want to visit the Moscow Metro, considering it to be the main city sight.

The number of those in the security category who will have walkie talkies carefully wrapped up in fresh newspapers during the summit is being well concealed.

Will there be many staff dressed in civilian clothes?

[Layevskiy] Yes, there will be a fair number, of course.

[Nikolayev] That is, residents will not know who is who.

[Layevskiy] I do not think that there is any reason for residents to know that. The main thing is for them to go about their business calmly and enjoy the city.

[Nikolayev] Passes that practically cannot be forged are ready for entry to the zone of the future events for accredited journalists and the personal guard of the participants.

It is intended that such reinforced regimes of the GUVD will soon become the norm of the capital's life. Petrovka-38 told us that since 1922, nobody had counted how many street militia were needed. A serious study was made of that only recently. The counts carried out show that Moscow needs on a daily basis a number comparable to that being brought into operation for the forthcoming summit. [end recording] [video shows interview with official, militia in street, men on roofs of buildings]

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Russia: Expert Discusses Storage, Reprocessing of Nuclear Waste

LD1804220196 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 18 Apr 96

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer Igor Gmyza] We have invited to the Vremya studio Valeriy Fedorovich Menshchikov, member of the council of the Center for the Russian ecological policy. Valeriy Fedorovich, the summit will discuss the problem of recycling nuclear waste. I would like you to watch, together with us, two short reports prepared by our correspondents, and then to comment on the problem which they have raised. [passage omitted] So, what should be done with plutonium? Should we recycle it, bury it, or wait and see?

[Menshchikov] Let me remind you that about 50 years ago there was no plutonium on our planet, only traces of it, as one may put it. In the past 50 years the world has accumulated, according to experts, 1,250 tonnes of plutonium, including 250 tonnes of weapons-grade plutonium, which is extracted from warheads, and also fresh plutonium, made for this purpose.

That is, the whole military program has been based on obtaining this plutonium. Now a reverse process has started. There is plenty of this dangerous material around. One should not allow this material, which, being radioactive and chemically active, presents a great danger, to fall into the hands of terrorists of some countries which want to build the bomb. That is why the forthcoming summit will devote particular attention to this problem.

So, what are the options? What can be done? Americans say that it should be stored. The [Russian] Atomic Ministry, as you have seen, favors recycling.

However, one should mention two things: first, only plutonium used for energy can be reprocessed. However, the world is yet to come up with acceptable technology of reprocessing plutonium which is extracted from nuclear charges. Neither U.S. experts nor Russian experts have developed one. So, the only thing one can do with it is to store it in special facilities. Such facility, the only one in Russia so far for storing fissile nuclear waste, is now being built at the Mayak plant. The scope of work is enormous, at least for another two years. It's a storage facility size of a soccer field with well-designed engineering installations, which has been checked for ecological safety and all other standards and received a go-ahead by our supervisory authorities.

Now, here is the main problem: what do we do with the energy plutonium? If, as the Atomic Ministry believes, it can be mixed with other fuel and used as nuclear fuel in reactors, then we have a problem. Currently there are no reactors in Russia which could use this mixed fuel. There was a project to build a nuclear powered station near the Mayak, the so-called South Urals station, which could gradually recycle this energy plutonium. Unfortunately ecologists are against this station, maybe for emotional reasons. The building site of the station has been mothballed. Even if everything were going well, and money, huge amounts of money, were found, and the go-ahead were given to this type of reactors — these are new reactors, which have not yet been licensed — then the station could become operational in 10 to 12 years.

That is, for these 10 or 12 or maybe 15 years we must store this energy plutonium in the same way, under permanent supervision and in normal storage facilities which may withstand an accident, such as a crash of an aircraft, or a helicopter, or any flying machine; any explosion by unknown forces, and any seismic effects.

[Gmyza] Such storing is probably very expensive. What will be the bill for it?

[Menshchikov] Economists have calculated that the annual cost of storing one gram of plutonium, including all these installations, is about five dollars. The world must now store 1,250 tonnes of extracted plutonium.

[Gmyza] Vladimir Fedorovich, thank you for coming and answering our questions.

Russia: Radioactive Dump Set Up by Military Recruiting Office

LD1804114896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1110 GMT 18 Apr 96

[By Olga Semenova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW April 18 (Itar-Tass) — The radioactive dump found several days ago in the village of Glazynino outside Moscow was set up by the military recruiting office of the nearby town of Odintsovo whose employees buried radioactive bars near the village two years ago after a fire in their office.

The Security service of the Moscow region told Tass on Thursday that several broken metallic cases with the bars were brought to the forest near the village together with other garbage from the recruiting office after the fire.

Now the security officers are working to identify to who concretely the cases belonged.

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In two days after the dangerous find, the decontamination workers from the "Rodon" company gathered two dozens of radioactive bars and their fragments with a total emission of some 75 milliroentgen per hour.

It was earlier reported that the bars emitted up to 1,600 milliroentgen per hour, but one of the decontamination workers rejected the statements. He told Tass that the radiation "was above the norm, but could be dangerous for the health of the people only if they swallowed the bars".

However, the decontamination workers were alarmed by a small spot with a diametre of 30-40 centimetres which emitted 940 milliroentgen per hour.

The workers said the contaminated spot had been barricaded off and the radiation background was normal outside it.

Federal Assembly

Russia: Chernomyrdin Asked To Summon Grachev To Appear Before Duma

LD1904094496 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0902 GMT 19 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Apr — Russian Federation State Duma Chairman Gennadiy Seleznev reported to the chamber's deputies during today's plenary session that, in a telephone conversation today with Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation government, he asked the latter to oblige Defense Minister Pavel Grachev to appear at the Duma by 1600 today. The parliamentarians intend to hear information from the defense minister on what happened on 16 April near the Chechen village of Yaryshmardy, where a large group of federal servicemen perished.

The chairman of the chamber also informed the deputies that Internal Affairs Minister Anatoliy Kulikov has already promised him that he will come to the Duma by 1600 today to take part in the discussion of the deaths of Russian servicemen in Chechnya on 16 April.

During the time that Gennadiy Seleznov was absent from the hall where the session was being held, while telephoning the chairman of the Russian Government, a discussion was held on the latter tragedy in Chechnya, during which State Duma deputy Konstantin Borovoy accused the chairman of the chamber of "lying to the deputies" over the situation in Chechnya. Learning of the comment made by Konstantin Borovoy, Gennadiy Seleznev proposed that the parliamentarian should be deprived of the right to speak at the chamber's sessions for a period of one month. The majority of the deputies supported this proposal.

Russia: Duma Passes Human Rights Law, Probes Alleged CPRF Squads

MK1804131096 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 18 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by Yevgeniy Yuryev: "They Exchanged Commissioner for Qadhdhafi"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Duma's ninth attempt to complete work on the long-suffering draft law, "On a Human Rights Commissioner," ended successfully. The document, the passing of which calls for a qualified majority of the vote, finally passed its third reading.

The outcome of the vote was determined by the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] faction. The Zhirinovskiyites, who stubbornly kept throwing out the draft law at all the stages of its discussion, radically changed their stance yesterday, but not unselfishly — as usual. They got in return for their votes a promise to back a resolution pushed by the faction on easing sanctions against Libya. A mutually advantageous deal was struck. The Duma, as a result, passed a law needed for Russia's Council of Europe membership, whereas the Zhirinovskiyites, who in fact "don't give a damn about" the Council of Europe and the human rights commissioner, had a chance to prove their friendly feelings toward Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Now they will be able to brandish a piece of paper that recommends, on behalf of the Duma, that Yeltsin "consider the need to raise in the UN Security Council the question of phasing out sanctions against Libya." The government is asked to amend the resolution that specifies the list of commodities and services that cannot be supplied to Libya.

The deputies also backed yesterday a number of other LDPR initiatives. On Zhirinovskiy's proposal, the General Prosecutor's Office and the FSB [Federal Security Service] were ordered to check up on the operation of Sheremetyevo-2 airport — in particular, on the observance of exit rules. The LDPR leader is worried that "enemies of the state with suitcases of stolen money" may flee the country on the eve of the presidential elections. The deputies backed another of Zhirinovskiy's initiatives; that is, to order that the security committee check on the sources of funds for Yegor Gaydar's Institute of the Transition-Period Economy and Gennadiy Burbulis's "Strategiya" fund. Zhirinovskiy thinks it necessary to make Gaydar and Burbulis "offset the material damage done by funding their structures from the federal budget."

The proposal from Deputy Sergey Yushenkov "to see how many imported cars and apartments" Zhirinovskiy

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had and where he gets the money to pay for these goodies did not find understanding in the Duma. The deputies, however, agreed on another Yushenkov proposal. They decided to ask the General Prosecutor's Office to check on information concerning the unlawful armed formations which some Moscow-based political parties have. The State Duma asked the General Prosecutor's Office to inform it about any measures to stop the activities of such structures; that is, if the information is true.

To back his proposal, Yushenkov revealed that the press reported that the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] alone has about 200 fighters in Moscow. [Figure as published. On 12 April MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS reported that the CPRF has "over 2,000 armed men in Moscow alone."] Responding to it, head of the security committee and CPRF spokesman Viktor Ilyukhin recalled that the Communist Party had warned of possible provocations against it and against its presidential candidate. In Ilyukhin's view, Yushenkov's announcement was "a vile provocation" aimed at convincing the public that the CPRF has fighting structures and that "it is in the mood for forcible methods [silovoy put]." In order to remove suspicion, the CPRF backed Yushenkov's initiative. The Duma is likely to relentlessly exploit the theme of disclosures for the duration of the time remaining before the elections.

Playing further on the theme, the house ordered that the budget committee find out how much money is appropriated for Boris Yeltsin's campaign trips, and to inform the deputies accordingly. The proposal was made by Vera Savchuk, a CPRF deputy. In the course of discussing the new initiative, the deputies asked the budget committee to see on which grounds presidential candidate Yeltsin is provided with the equipment that goes with the office [sluzhebnaya technika] and "whether this stays within the budget limits."

Regional Affairs

Russia: Yeltsin Outraged Over Chechnya Ambush; Blames Military

LD1904111396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1100 GMT 19 Apr 96

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 19 (Itar-Tass) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin today told journalists in the Kremlin that "the military leadership is to blame and will be taken to account for the tragedy."

He was referring to the death of more than 70 Russian troops near the Chechen village of Yarysh-Mardy on April 16.

Yeltsin said he was "shaken by the tragedy" near Yarysh-Mardy which resulted from an attack by Chechen separatists on a convoy of federal troops in a place that was considered one of the most peaceful and quiet in the rebel republic in the Northern Caucasus.

According to Boris Yeltsin, what happened in Yarysh-Mardy was "a tragedy for Chechnya, for all of Russia and for the President."

Yeltsin expressed condolences to the families of the servicemen who were killed near Yarysh-Mardy in what he described as "a pre-planned act of provocation."

The area where the Russian troops were attacked was "quiet and peaceful, it was among the first to sign the peace accord. There were no militant separatists there, they entered the area for the purpose," Yeltsin said.

The Russian President said the convoy of army trucks was carrying a peaceful load — food and medicines. It was accompanied by armed guards but carried no arms, Yeltsin said.

The convoy was preceded by a reconnaissance group who did not notice the attackers hiding in an ambush. "This as also something for which the military leadership will be taken to account," Yeltsin said.

"It is now clear who wants peace and who wants war," the Russian head of state said. "Despite the tragedy I still favour the continuation of implementation of the peace plan for the settlement both through negotiations and through rebuff of the bandits, not through sitting on our hands," the President said.

Russia: Motorized Regiment Casualties in Chechen Ambush Reported

LD1804162296 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 18 Apr 96

[From the "Segodnya" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The true figures for the losses in the Russian convoy which was attacked by Dudayev fighters on 16 April have become known. We are talking today about 93 killed and 54 wounded. [passage omitted]

Our special correspondent Aleksandr Abramenko reports from Groznyy.

[Abramenko] New details emerged today about the fighters' attack on the convoy of the federal forces' motorized regiment near the settlements of Dachu-Borzoy and Yaryshmardy on the afternoon of 16 April. The updated figures look like this: 93 dead, 54 wounded.

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According to information from military sources, the dead also included civilians, mainly women, mothers of the soldiers.

The Combined 104th Motorized Rifle Regiment of Moscow Military District was returning after combat duty to its main base in Groznyy. A group of up to 100 or so fighters shelled the convoy at the most vulnerable point on the mountain road, where the possibilities for maneuver and repulsing attacks were extremely limited. In the view of the military to whom we managed to talk today, the command of the regiment evidently made a number of tactical errors. In the first place, they did not carry out reconnaissance of the area. In the second place, they did not post the guards as is customary during such movements — all the more so in conditions when the fighters have already switched to overtly partisan methods of warfare.

It is up to military experts to establish whether these are the only reasons. Some of them believe these losses can be compared only with those the Russian Federation army suffered in January 1995, and it is incomprehensible why today the military is failing to take account of the sad experience of those months.

Incidentally, a few days before this incident, both Chechen villages signed tripartite peace accords.

Aleksandr Abramenko, NTV Television company, from Groznyy.

Russia: Militants Attack Federal Troops in Chechnya

LD1904084596 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0705 GMT 19 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Kipkeyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Apr (Itar-Tass) — At 0630 this morning, a group of militants attempted to mount an attack from the Bamut direction on subdivisions of federal forces located in the district, the ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by Joint Group Commander Vyacheslav Tikhomirov. He said the Dudayevites' attack was repulsed and they withdraw into the mountains, sustaining losses.

The commander added that in the past 24 hours the federal forces' positions were fired on near the population centers of Elistanzhi (Vedenskiy District) and Goyskoye (Urus-Martanovskiy District). The Dudayevites' firing positions were silenced.

Alvi Karimov, correspondent of the republic's agency VAYNAKHPRESS, reports from Groznyy that, according to the Central Commandant's office, federal troops came under fire 16 times in the Chechen capital. There are no casualties.

Russia: Federal Forces Deny Air Strikes on Ingush Village of Arshty

LD1904115496 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1011 GMT 19 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Kipkeyev]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 19th Apr (Itar-Tass) — The Ingush village of Arshty "has not been subjected to any bombardments," a spokesman of the federal forces command in Chechnya told the ITAR-TASS correspondent over the telephone today. He said that, in connection with continual armed provocations by the militants from the area of the Chechen village of Bamut, Russian aircraft are bombing positions of the Dudayev strongholds located there. "The village of Arshty is situated in the territory of Ingushetia and there are no hostilities there," he said. [passage omitted]

Russia: Shaymiyev Adviser: Federal Troops Do Not Control Groznyy

MM1904082696 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Apr 96 p 2

[Interview with Rafail Khakimov, adviser to the Tatar president, by unnamed TATINFORM correspondent specially for IZVESTIYA, date and place not given: "Dudayevites Believe Victory Will Be Theirs..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 7 April a man in civilian dress carrying a pale-blue satellite communications case crossed into the Chechen Republic from Ingushetia. Waiting for him near the settlement of Arshty was a "UAZ" vehicle with armed gunmen. That was how the peace mission by Rafail Khakimov, aide to the Tatar president, began. He told a TATINFORM correspondent of his impressions of his trip to Chechnya as the representative of Tatar President M. Shaymiyev.

[TATINFORM] What was the aim of your visit to the combat zone?

[Khakimov] I was to find an opportunity to discuss the terms for a meeting between Dudayev and Shaymiyev. I also had to see for myself what was happening and convince myself of how realistic the Dudayev authorities are.

[TATINFORM] What impression did you take away from your meetings with field commanders and gunmen?

[Khakimov] They have a well-organized hierarchical army structure — there is a Defense Council, a troop

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headquarters, communications and security services, and a foreign relations department. All the combat units are disciplined. They have plenty of weapons and ammunition — they are clearly buying it from somewhere.

[TATINFORM] And what is the mood of the gunmen themselves?

[Khakimov] They believe that victory will be theirs.

[TATINFORM] So what is their attitude to Shaymiyev's peace initiative?

[Khakimov] Opinions differ, of course — the gunmen and the field commanders have spent more than a year in the trenches, so they are more aggressive. There are even some who believe that Tatarstan should declare war on Russia too. Representatives higher up the line are more diplomatic. Nonetheless, they all want peace. The difference is only the conditions which they see as needing to be observed in order to achieve it.

[TATINFORM] You traveled through Chechnya with "Dudayev's men." Was there any danger of coming across federal troops?

[Khakimov] We avoided federal units, and generally I got the impression that Dudayev is even in control of territory where Russian troops are located — his supporters move freely around Chechnya. When I left, I was taken to Groznyy, and I could see for myself that the federal troops are not wholly in control of the republic's capital. In certain areas Russian checkpoints alternated with Dudayevite checkpoints.

[TATINFORM] Did the trip put your life in any danger?

[Khakimov] I was accompanied by Major Khamzat, the commandant of Bamut. They were very attentive about safeguarding my security. In particular, I did not meet with Dudayev for that reason. Intensive fighting was under way in that area, and it was not possible to use the mountain pass — it had been raining for several days. The security service reckoned that it would be too dangerous to go any further. That was why Dudayev's representatives came for the talks. Although it was suggested that if I waited a few days the meeting with the general might be able to go ahead.

[TATINFORM] So why didn't you wait?

[Khakimov] I had to get back to Moscow as quickly as possible. I had a meeting with E. Pain, head of the negotiating group, and V. Mikhaylov, Russian Federation minister for interethnic relations and regional policy [title as published]. They needed information on the Dudayev side's position as fast as possible.

[TATINFORM] Can you say anything about some of the results of the trip?

[Khakimov] A contact group has been set up to prepare for a meeting. This will possibly go ahead after 20 April. It has been suggested that it be held on the border of Ingushetia and the Chechen Republic. [Khakimov ends]

P.S. During a 16 April phone call a Dudayev spokesman told Rafail Khakimov about continuing air raids. These, it was said, make it impossible to set any specific date for the talks, since one of the conditions put forward by the Dudayevite side for the holding of negotiations is an end to hostilities.

Russia: Some 16,000 Federal Troops 'Likely' To Stay in Chechnya

LD1804134996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0958 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, April 18 (Interfax) — A total of 16,000 federal troops — a motorized rifle brigade, a brigade of interior troops and a tank regiment — are likely to be permanently based in Chechnya, one of Russia's power ministries told Interfax.

There will be eleven federal army commissariats and a commandant's office of the Caucasian Border Guard District in Chechnya.

Upon the withdrawal of the bulk of the federal troops from Chechnya, "the operational situation will depend on the emergence of full-fledged law enforcement structures," the same source said. "So far, though, people on the staff of the Chechen Interior Ministry lack professionalism."

At first federal troops will be leaving Chechnya for deployment in neighboring areas. They may be committed to action if tension escalates in Chechnya.

The federal troop pullout started on April 15 and is to be completed in September.

Russia: Daily Cites Dudayev's Remarks to French Paper

MM1804160896 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Apr 96 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Mutinous General Confident He Can Bring Anyone to Their Knees"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A recent issue of the French newspaper LA CROIX published a report by its special correspondent on a meeting with Dzhokhar Dudayev in the Chechen settlement of Roshni-Chu.

We are quoting a few of the general's statements, which, we must assume, may shock those in the West who

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saw the president of the unrecognized Ichkeria [local name for Chechnya] as merely a man fighting Russian imperialism, without noticing his anti-Western speeches which would be entirely worthy of Saddam Husayn or Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi: "The time is coming when the East will be fenced off from the Western world by an iron curtain. The Western countries have created an egotistical alliance in an attempt to preserve their prosperity, which has been achieved at the expense of our misfortune. Is that how you are planning to enter the 21st century? No way, gentlemen! The great creator will no longer tolerate such injustice. Retribution for all your sins will be inevitable. Look, nothing good comes out of the West today; all around you are just environmental disasters, epidemics, tuberculosis, AIDS, 'mad cow disease'"....

Nor will Dudayev's replies be very encouraging for those hoping for a swift end to the war: "Negotiating is pointless. We have no option but to fight. The Chechens have been fighting for their independence for 437 years now. And we will continue that fight.... Our spirit is the only force that can ensure our victory in this just war. We will win not because of money or arms, but because we are ready to sacrifice ourselves for the sake of our motherland, our faith, and the truth.... We are strong enough and clever enough to bring anyone to their knees. No state can withstand that."

Russia: Krylov Explains Stance on Chechnya to UN Commission

LD1804205896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1854 GMT 18 Apr 96

[By Konstantin Pribytkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GENEVA, April 18 (Itar-Tass) — Russian human rights expert Sergey Krylov, whom President Boris Yeltsin appointed to lead the Russian delegation to the 52nd session of the U.N. Human Rights Commission, today told the session in Geneva about Russia's stance on Chechnya.

Russia "has not tried to avoid dialogue on the Chechnya issue with other states, international structures, or non-governmental organisations," Krylov said. But any discussion of the issue is only possible if there is unconditional respect for the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation, he added.

Krylov said in his address to the session that for Russian society Chechnya "continues to remain probably the biggest headache."

Since the 51st session issued a statement on Russia's human rights record in Chechnya, "a number of major events occurred which have thrown new light on the problem," Krylov said.

He pointed to the fact that large-scale military operations had been halted in Chechnya in keeping with the peace plan proclaimed by President Boris Yeltsin, and that the federal security forces had begun a phased withdrawal from Chechnya's quiet areas to the republic's administrative borders.

"We are prepared for negotiations with (Chechen separatist leader) Dudayev himself," Krylov said. So it is now up to Dudayev to make up his mind and give up "armed assaults and his policy of terror".

Krylov said a special fact-finding mission had gone to Chechnya to probe into "all facts of violation of human rights, regardless of who violated them," and the Russian State Duma was to consider proclaiming pardon to all participants in the hostilities in that republic.

"We believe all this adds up to Russia's bona fide response to the concern over the human rights situation in Chechnya which was expressed by the chairman of the 51st session of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights," Krylov said.

He later told Itar-Tass that Chechnya had been in focus at today's session of the U.N. Commission but "the approach was (mostly) one-sided, as no adequate notice was taken of the fact that the Dudayev side had repeatedly disrupted peace talks and that the use of terrorist methods, including hostage-taking, was among its characteristic actions."

Even the main report which addressed the freedom of conscience "failed to mention that Dudayev's supporters were holding a Russian Orthodox and a Moslem priest hostages," Krylov said.

"With these facts in mind, how can anyone say that the Dudayev supporters stand for religious principles? They have endlessly violated both norms of international law and principles inherent in any humane religion," he said.

Krylov recalled that Yeltsin's peace plan for Chechnya had been praised by many politicians, including Flavio Cotti, the chairman-in-office of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

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Russia: Prosecutor's Office Requests Clues To Identify Basayev's Body

MK1804140196 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Apr 96 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Request for Basayev's Distinctive Marks"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The investigation group of the Russian General Prosecutor's Office has turned to all medical institutions in Moscow with a request to let it know if Shamil Basayev sought medical advice during his years as a student in the Russian capital. This was revealed yesterday by informed sources in the General Prosecutor's Office of Russia. According to the request, the investigation group needs information on whatever diseases, injuries or distinctive marks Mr. Basayev had when a land development engineering student in Moscow in the late 1980's. A source noted that Basayev's student medical records which may contain this information were destroyed in 1991 in accordance with the Ministry of Higher Education instructions now in effect. It was explained in medical circles that information requested by the investigation may be needed for a forensic study, to identify Mr. Basayev's body, perhaps.

Russia: Orenburg Mayor Gets Light Head Wound in Assassination Attempt

LD1904092696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0911 GMT 19 Apr 96

[By Nikolay Goncharov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ORENBURG, South of the Urals, April 19 (Itar-Tass) — Head of the Orenburg administration Gennadiy Donkovtsev was slightly wounded in the left part of his head as a result of an attempt on his life. He was whisked off to the regional hospital where he received medical aid.

The mayor's state is now satisfactory, Itar-Tass learned from Aleksandr Gusev, head of the Federal Security Service administration for the Orenburg Region here today.

A blast of an unidentified explosive device went off in the backyard of the house where Donkovtsev lives, at 05.45, Moscow time. He came out of his doorway at that time and headed for his car to go to work. A criminal case was instituted concerning the attempt on his life.

Economic Issues

Russia: Chernomyrdin Addresses Government Session on Privatization

LD1804144696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1333 GMT 18 Apr 96

[By Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 18 (Itar-Tass) — Despite drawbacks in the course of privatization in 1995, the government does not set itself the task to revise the results of privatization which was carried through, said Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin at a session of the government today devoted to the results of privatization last year and tasks set forth for the next year.

Among drawbacks in the privatization campaign last year Chernomyrdin noted the absence of an efficient mechanism for attracting investments into privatized enterprises, poor management of state property and inadequate protection of the interests of investors and shareholders.

However, tasks set forth for next year have been specified, Chernomyrdin said. The main task of a new privatization programme is to ensure estimated budgetary proceeds from privatization and switch on to privatization on the basis of individual projects.

Russia: Minister Yasin Speaks on Substandard Imports

MM1904101696 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Apr 96 Weekend Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "We Eat What We Are Given?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The proportion of imported goods sold in Russia as part of the total volume of commodity turnover was 54 percent last year as against 19 percent in 1993.

As Minister of the Economy Yevgeniy Yasin stated yesterday at a government session which examined measures for protecting the consumer market from the penetration of substandard goods, in 1995 the organs which exercise state control over the quality of output rejected 58 percent of the imported goods they inspected. That indicator, the minister said, is 20-40 percent higher than the rejection figure for corresponding goods produced in Russia. Yevgeniy Yasin announced that the largest quantity of substandard output comes from China, Vietnam, Belgium, Germany, Hungary, and the CIS countries.

Among the main reasons why the Russian market is being filled with imported output of poor quality which

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is sometimes harmful to people's health the minister of the economy cited the transparency of the borders with the CIS countries, the lack of effective control over the quality of foreign goods, violations when concluding contracts, deliveries of output without guarantees of quality and the relevant certificates.

Yevgeniy Yasin suggested as measures to change the situation that an interstate agreement be elaborated and concluded between the CIS members on the control and certification of shipped goods. Moreover, the minister considers it essential to simplify the procedure for confiscating substandard goods. At present this can only be done through the court but Yevgeniy Yasin suggested that this measure by carried out by the organs of the sanitation and epidemiology inspectorate in conjunction with the Internal Affairs Ministry. Moreover, it is suggested that the provision of customs points with the necessary control equipment be improved.

Yevgeniy Yasin said that all these steps will be implemented only by accelerating the elaboration and adoption of the Russian Federation laws "on the quality and safety of imported output," "on independent consumer appraisal," "on the packaging and labelling of goods," "on internal trade," and "on the quality and safety of foodstuffs." It is also necessary to make changes to existing laws on the standardization and certification of output and services.

Russia: Nuclear Industry Vexed by Waste Problem

MK1804134696 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Apr 96 p 6

[Report by Yevgeniy Mikerin, chief, Fourth Main Administration of the Russian Federation Atomic Industry Ministry; Yevgeniy Kudryavtsev, chief specialist, Fourth Main Administration of the Russian Federation Atomic Industry Ministry: "The Russian Atomic Industry Ministry Knows What It Is Doing. Plutonium and Radioactive Waste Are the Main Problems of Russia's Nuclear Complex"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Atomic Industry Ministry has always been Janus-faced, working simultaneously for the defense sector and for civilian nuclear engineering. The same plants were engaged in enriching uranium for civil engineering and for nuclear weapons and in producing — which they are still doing — fuel for nuclear power plants and for nuclear submarines. RT-1 multipurpose radiochemical plant in Southern Urals is a modernized defense-complex plutonium production facility. The amount of waste resulting from the processing of fuel at RT-1 depends more on the shipment of [spent] fuel from nuclear submarines than from nuclear power plants. If the Mayak production association loses foreign orders to process spent fuel from nuclear power plants, then all of the outlays involved in the reprocessing and vitrification of old or current waste from the defense industry will have to be met from the shrinking state budget. This is to say nothing about the substantial hard-currency revenues, vital to the sector in addressing its social and environmental problems.

The backlog of problems from the past defines the main task: to guarantee the safe storage and processing of spent fuel from nuclear power plants and radioactive waste, to take measures to ensure that radioactive and fissile materials do not escape outside of nuclear installations, and to deal with the problem of using plutonium, including from dismantled nuclear weapons, in nuclear engineering.

What To Do With Waste, and How

As a result of the implementation of defense and civilian nuclear programs, billions of curies of radioactive waste have been accumulated at Atomic Industry Ministry enterprises. A comparison of the aggregate amount and radioactivity level of radioactive waste concentrated at Atomic Industry Ministry enterprises with the other departments (the Navy, the Radon Research and Production Association, and others) shows that our installations stock 99.9 percent of all radioactive waste in Russia. Therefore the safe handling of radioactive waste and the protection of the environment and of the future generations from the dangerous impact of radionuclides is basically the responsibility of engineers and workers at three radiochemical production facilitates of the Atomic Industry Ministry: the Mayak Production Association in Chelyabinsk Oblast, the Siberian Chemical Combine in Tomsk Oblast, and the underground mining and chemical combine in Krasnoyarsk Kray.

The procedure for handling liquid radioactive waste adopted by the Russian Atomic Industry Ministry substantially differs from the approaches used in the United States. At U.S. radiochemical complexes of Hanford and Savannah River, the bulk of highly radioactive waste resulting from the extraction of weapons-grade plutonium from the fuel used in nine uranium-graphite and five heavy-water reactors is stored in near-the-surface steel reservoirs. The aggregate amount of highly radioactive solutions and pulp is estimated at 400,000 cubic meters and plutonium-containing liquid radioactive waste, at 65,000 cubic meters. Annual expenditures by the U.S. Department of Energy to deal with the problem of waste and restoration of the environment in the 1990's exceeded $6.0 billion. The main problems are as follows: leakage of waste from dozens of corroding tanks on which maintenance is no longer performed because they are past their service life; heavy contamination of soil

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with plutonium, toxic organic matter, and heavy metals; and the storage of several thousand tonnes of unprocessed military fuel.

At Atomic Industry Ministry enterprises, the storage of waste in reservoirs is an intermediary operation, although accumulation of radioactive deposits creates extremely difficult technical problems. At Mayak, liquid waste was originally dumped into Lake Karachay (approximately 120 million curies); now it is stored in tanks and gradually reprocessed. At the Siberian Chemical Combine, approximately 100 million curies of waste have been accumulated in the B-1 and the B-2 basins. The B-1 and the B-2 basins have insulating clay screens that effectively contain radiation. These open, and therefore potentially dangerous, reservoirs are being gradually abolished, as is Karachay — extremely arduous and unrewarding work.

Since the 1960's it has been common practice at the Siberian Chemical Combine and the underground mining and chemical combine in Krasnoyarsk Kray to pump liquid waste, after cooling and special treatment, into deep, reliably insulated collector layers. This precludes impact by waste on the population and the natural environment. All in all, more than 2 billion curies of waste have been buried by using this technology. By now, owing to decay, the radioactivity of the buried waste has fallen to 800 million curies. Continual monitoring confirms the forecast that the radionuclides will stay in the assigned layer for 700 to 1,000 years, whereupon virtually all of the buried fission radionuclides will fully decay. The estimated capacity of the available storage sites will allow to bury also the waste that will appear after the defense industry installations are decommissioned.

At the Mayak Production Association, there are no conditions for underground [waste] pumping technology. Highly radioactive waste resulting from the processing of fuel from nuclear power plants, nuclear submarines, and icebreakers is reprocessed into special glass in an industrial furnace: the EP-500/1R ceramic melter, which has been in operation since 1991. Waste accumulated from previous years is added in small amounts. As of 1 January 1996, 1,900 tonnes of glass with an included [vklyuchennaya] radioactivity of 214 million curies was produced. After "cooling" for 20 to 30 years, the sealed containers with glass blocks will need to be moved from temporary storage and buried permanently. The operating melter is long past its rated service life (three years), and there is an urgent need to put a new plant into operation, but to all appearances it will not be ready before 1997.

The cost of building the first line of the waste vitrification facility in the 1980's was 40 million rubles (in 1986 prices), whereas the cost of the development and construction of the defense industry waste vitrification plant in Savannah River (United States) has already reached $2.4 billion, although the capacity of these glass melters is approximately the same. In the future specialists are planning to modernize the glass melter to make it more "omnivorous" and durable. The RT-2 plant project near Krasnoyarsk is designed to accommodate liquid radioactive waste processing and solidification technology.

Plutonium: Asset or Liability?

Whereas in implementing first nuclear projects, each gram of plutonium was treasured, now specialists are studying ways of how to bury or burn in atomic reactors tonnes of this dangerous nuclear material as soon as possible and as cheaply as possible. The overall amount of plutonium in Russia, which has to be stored today and used tomorrow, will reach 85-90 tonnes by the year 2000. Plutonium handling calls for enhanced precaution and safety procedures, that is to say, additional outlays. This must be why Ukraine and Kazakhstan, while demanding compensation for the highly enriched uranium from the nuclear weapons evacuated from their territory, tactfully forget about the plutonium. The need for special protection and continuous monitoring of personnel working at plutonium facilities arises from the ability of this element to build up in the organism, primarily in the liver and the skeleton, leading to their overradiation.

The nuclear industry of European countries (Belgium, France, and Great Britain) and Japan is already using plutonium by the tonnes as derived nuclear fuel for atomic power plants. The aggregate output by plants producing uranium-plutonium fuel for nuclear power plants at present is some 200 tonnes a year and by the year 2000 it can increase by 1.5-2 times.

Plutonium can be used in both thermal and "fast" power engineering. The second option — as technically and economically more effective — was adopted by the Russian Atomic Industry Ministry as basic. Much research and testing has been done; several uranium-plutonium fuel (MOKS) [mixed oxide] assemblies are annually loaded into the BN-600 [reactor] at the Beloyarsk Nuclear Power Plant, but we have never come to the point of using plutonium on an industrial scale. For this to happen, several nuclear power plants with BN-600-type fast-neutron reactors should be built and a facility producing fuel for them from a uranium-plutonium mixture should be put into operation. In the present economic situation this task appears unrealistic.

Within the framework of international assistance programs for Russia in reducing the number of its nuclear

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weapons, Atomic Industry Ministry specialists, jointly with their German and French colleagues, are intensively studying the possible ways of using plutonium, primarily of weapons-grade quality, at the operational nuclear power plants. In this respect the experience accumulated by European countries during the years-long safe operation of "civilian" MOKS-fuel facilities is extremely important to us. For instance, exhaust air at these facilities passes through four filter stages with the purification coefficient of 0.9999 at each. This is a fantastic indicator! Clearly, the creation of even a relatively small pilot production plutonium facility to international standards will call for large investments and budgetary support or funds from a special international foundation. In this event many tonnes of plutonium could be used up at Russian nuclear power plants within a short time span.

The most urgent task in ensuring the long-term safe storage of nuclear material today is the accelerated construction of a new storage facility. Weapons-grade uranium and plutonium, which come in abundant amounts from dismantled nuclear warheads, call for close attention. The construction of this storage (its foundation has already been laid at the Mayak Production Association) should be the main task safeguarding us against potential unpleasant problems.

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International Affairs

Ukraine: Solana Views Ukrainian, Russian Roles in European Security

AU1804130696 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 13 Apr 96 p 11

["Exclusive" article by NATO Secretary General Javier Solana: "NATO and Ukraine: Marching Together Toward Peace" — first paragraph published in a box]

[FBIS Translated Text] Independent and democratic Ukraine plays a key role in maintaining security in Europe. It is an important partner of NATO. This is precisely the idea that I want to show during my first visit to Ukraine as NATO secretary general on 15 and 16 April. In this article, I will try to explain the objectives of the new security structure that we are striving to create in Europe and the importance of ties between Ukraine and NATO.

Since the end of the "cold war," NATO has changed from being the guarantor of joint defense for its members to becoming a decisive security factor for the wider Euro-Atlantic community. The North Atlantic Alliance plays a new role, it has a new mission and new partners, and cooperation between Ukraine and NATO can only reinforce stability on the European continent.

The former division of Europe no longer exists, but instability and conflicts remain in certain parts of our continent, creating zones with dissimilar security levels in Europe. However, the hopes considerably outweigh the risks. Now, that barriers and confrontation lines have been removed, Europe may be united through joint security, economy, and politics.

In 1991, NATO adopted a new strategic concept, in which the main attention is given to settling crises and not to eliminating major threats as was the case in the past. Accordingly, the numerical strength of NATO has been considerably reduced, and the combat detachments have been transformed into smaller and more mobile units so they can better fulfill the new peacekeeping role. The U.S. Armed Forces in Europe have been cut by more than 60 percent. The general combat readiness level of the troops has been lowered. NATO nuclear forces have been reduced by 80 percent, and all nuclear missiles have been withdrawn from Europe.

The scope of changes in NATO may be followed if one looks at Bosnia. A total of 60,000 servicemen from the so-called Peace Accords Implementation Force — IFOR — are implementing the peace accord in that region, devastated by war. The IFOR, under the operational command of NATO, is creating a climate of security and confidence.

The IFOR also includes Ukrainian troops. Their presence clearly demonstrates Ukraine's striving to make its contribution to the establishment of peace and stability in Europe, and also testifies to closer ties arising between Ukraine and NATO.

This process has made an important step forward after the "Partnership for Peace" Program was initiated in January 1994. As follows from the experience of cooperation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, our Armed Forces must not just learn how to act jointly, but also how to support one another and rely upon one another.

Some partner countries in central and eastern Europe have expressed the desire to become full members of NATO. For those countries, joining the Alliance will become a step toward integration within European organizations and structures, in particular, those in charge of security. NATO cannot remain indifferent to these countries' desire to join NATO. The alliance is not a limited structure.

The adoption of new members by NATO is not an end in itself. It serves a broader objective — strengthening general European security and stability. For this purpose, the process of NATO expansion must be open, gradual, and unconcealed. NATO's expansion is expected to overcome differences and not create new ones. For precisely this reason, we must intensify our relations with such states as, for example, Ukraine, states that do not plan to join the Alliance in the near future.

Ever since Ukraine achieved independence, which NATO members supported fully and consistently, it has strived to establish close ties with NATO as a member of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and of the "Partnership for Peace" Program. Last year, the Ukrainian Government and leaders of NATO adopted an individual program for Ukraine's partnership with NATO, a program that is the main element of the "Partnership for Peace." Within the framework of the program, Ukraine took part in field exercises and conducted them twice on its territory.

These measures have created the conditions for using additional possibilities in cooperation. In the joint statement for the press that was made during the visit by Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko to NATO headquarters on 14 September 1995 we outlined spheres of stronger ties. A meeting of representatives of NATO's Political Committee and Ukraine recently ended in Brussels. We also plan a meeting between representatives of the North Atlantic Council, NATO's highest political body, and the Ukrainian Government at which issues of mutual interest will be discussed: Peacekeeping, arms control, and prevention of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We are also creating a network for

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close cooperation between NATO and Ukraine in the political and military spheres, and also in scientific and ecological studies, exchange of information, and planning for extraordinary situations. For example, a major seminar will be held this coming summer on planning for extraordinary situations. Russia's active participation in the creation of a new security structure in Europe is vital. We will not be able to create such a structure without Russia or especially aimed against it. We are convinced that the 70 years of ideological confrontation and 40 years of military confrontation must become things of the past. In our opinion, both the countries of the Alliance and Ukraine are interested in establishing strong, stable, and lasting relations between NATO and Russia.

Today, not a single country is capable of achieving stability and peace in Europe on its own. That is why we must move toward peace, using the unique diplomatic and military experience that NATO has acquired over its period of existence.

Ukraine is a great European power, whose independence and active participation in the creation of the security system plays an exceptionally important role for the whole of Europe.

Ukraine: UK's Major Meets Kuchma in Kiev; Signs Accord With Marchuk

LD1804161896 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1525 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] "Mayak" continues its program with a live link-up to Kiev. British Prime Minister John Major has been on a visit to Ukraine. This topic is continued by my colleague, Vladimir Semelnikov. Over to you.

[Semelnikov] Good evening. John Major, the prime minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, has been on a half-day official visit to the Ukrainian capital. John Major arrived in Kiev on the eve of his visit to Moscow, where he will take part in the G-7 summit. Ukraine, by the way, has also been invited to attend this summit since one of the most important questions on the agenda of the Moscow summit will be a discussion of problems connected with the closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power station. The Kiev authorities, naturally, are interested in obtaining as much material assistance as possible from the West for the implementation of this program.

The agenda for the first visit to Kiev by the British prime minister since Ukraine secured its independence was very busy. John Major had private talks with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. With Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk he signed an agreement on mutual assistance in the struggle against drug trafficking. He visited the Supreme Council, where he met Supreme Council Speaker Oleksandr Moroz. He also attended the presentation of the Kiev International Bank, which has been set up to fund programs aided by the European Union in Ukraine.

The British prime minister's meetings with Ukraine's political leaders were emphatically friendly. John Major himself declared that he wanted to see for himself how successfully the reforms were going in Ukraine.

The visit also included the now traditional walkabout on the streets of the city and a relaxed conversation with ordinary citizens who got caught up among the mass of bodyguards and journalists. On this occasion the place chosen for the walkabout was Kiev's central market, the Bessarabskiy, which is the most expensive one in the city. Clearly, the aim of the exercise was to demonstrate the success of market reforms.

John Major's visit to Kiev was yet more evidence of the G-7's interest in Ukraine, which is allocated an important role in the plans for the construction of a new European home.

This is Vladimir Semelnikov, for Mayak, in Kiev.

Ukraine: Major Stresses Importance of Relations With Ukraine

LD1804182096 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1725 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — "Ukraine should be playing a more important role in Europe in general and in international structures in particular — in the Western European Union, NATO, and the World Trade Organization — and Great Britain is ready to assist it in so doing," British Prime Minister John Major has told the participants in a parliamentary seminar on "Foreign affairs and security issues." The seminar is being held on the initiative of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, the Consultative and Advisory Council under the Presidium of the Supreme Council, and the British Know-How Fund.

John Major said his state regarded relations with Ukraine as "an important component of stability in Europe." Economic relations between the two states "should be built on the basis of mutual interests and mutual obligations" thus guaranteeing investments and expansion of trade between the two countries, the prime minister said.

Touching on the issue of European security, John Major stressed that "today, for the first time in Europe's history, countries have prospects for creating such new inter-relations of collective security that they have never had before."

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John Major spoke highly of his meetings with Ukraine's top-level officials and emphasized that consolidation of economic and political relations between the two states should be ensured through a concerted effort. The prime minister expressed his desire to visit Ukraine again for that purpose.

Ukraine: Marchuk, Major Sign Cooperation Accords on Combating Crime

LD1804165896 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1445 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — John Major and Yevhen Marchuk, the prime ministers of Ukraine and Great Britain, today signed agreements on the arrest and confiscation of incomes and implements involved in criminal activities and on mutual assistance in combating drug trafficking. The signing ceremony was held at the Mariyinskyy palace, in the presence of Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma. Commenting on the documents signed, the British prime minister described them as "a key factor in combating crime."

Major said the government of his country will continue rendering Ukraine economic aid, primarily, for the development of the power engineering industry. He also pointed out the need to consolidate bilateral relations in the economic sphere; in particular, in the sphere of investments.

In his turn, President Kuchma pointed out that economic cooperation with Great Britain is of primary importance for Ukraine. He said that during his talks with John Major they discussed issues of European security, the upcoming G-7 summit in Moscow, and a number of issues of bilateral cooperation. Kuchma stressed that "the stands of the two sides coincide on the overwhelming majority of issues discussed." Kuchma expressed his gratitude to the British prime minister for the support given to Ukraine in the process of its integration into the European community.

Ukraine: John Major, Marchuk Discuss Oil, Gas Prospecting

LD1804202296 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1445 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — British Prime Minister John Major has given assurances of his support for Ukraine in its joining the World Trade Organization (WTO), and its acceptance on the markets of EU countries. This has been stated by Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk on 18 April in an interview with journalists after a meeting with Major.

He noted that Great Britain is interested in investing in the power engineering sector, in particular in its restructuring, and in the shipbuilding and processing industries. Marchuk noted that during the meeting the sides discussed the involvement of certain British companies, in particular JKX and British Gas, on the Ukrainian territory in prospecting for oil and gas, in particular in Poltava Region and on the Black Sea shelf.

Marchuk said that John Major had supported the Ukrainian government position on the need to outline one's stand as regard the closing the Chernobyl nuclear power station, in particular the facility Shelter, and as regard the burial of the used nuclear fuel.

Ukraine: Udovenko Meets Armenian Foreign Minister in Kiev

LD1904103796 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0810 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Talks have begun between Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko and Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan. A framework treaty on friendship and cooperation between Ukraine and Armenia is to be initialed during the Armenian delegation's visit.

Hennadiy Udovenko noted during the talks with Vahan Papazyan that relations between Ukraine and Armenia date back to the times of Kievan Rus. He said he hopes that in view of these historical links relations between independent Ukraine and Armenia will develop fruitfully.

For his part, Vahan Papazyan noted that his visit to Ukraine is a demonstration of good relations between our states. He also emphasized that our relations have moved onto a qualitatively new level.

Ukraine: Dniester Delegation in Kiev for Consultations

LD1804200496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 18 (Interfax - Ukraine) — First consultations are currently in session in Kiev between the delegations of the self-proclaimed Trans-Dniester Moldovan Republic (TMR) and Ukraine's Foreign Ministry on the settlement of the Trans-Dniester conflict. The Trans-Dniester delegation is led by State Secretary Valeriy Litskay.

Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister Kostyantyn Hryshchenko told newsmen after a meeting with the leaders of Trans-Dniester delegation that a meeting between Trans-Dniester President Igor Smirnov and Moldova's President Mircea Snegur had been slated for April 24.

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According to a report of an IF-U correspondent, Hryshchenko said that the negotiations today covered different versions of a settlement. The high-ranking diplomat refused to disclose the details, but noted that the negotiations "were quite confidential".

K. Hryshchenko noted that nowadays "everyone realizes that without Ukraine's participation and support a real settlement of the Trans-Dniester problem is impossible".

According to the diplomat, the developments in Trans-Dniester "create certain examples for the settlement of similar issues in some areas of our region."

The Trans-Dniester delegation visited, while staying in Kiev, Moldova's Embassy in Ukraine, which has never been done by the Trans-Dniester representatives when they, for example, were staying in Moscow, K. Hryshchenko said. In his opinion, this is "an important step towards reaching mutual understanding."

The joint Ukrainian-Moldovan commission for economic issues led from the Ukrainian side by Anatoliy Kinakh, Vice-Premier in charge of Industry, opened in session in Kiev Thursday, the deputy Foreign Minister said. Thus, "we are working along two lines," he emphasized. According to him, there are "very many identical purely economic approaches both on the part of Chisinau and Tiraspol, which objectively brings them closer together."

The coincidence in time of political consultations with the Trans-Dniester delegation and the meeting of economic commission for co-operation with Moldova was described by K. Hryshchenko as "symptomatic and bearing evidence to real growth of our role and prestige."

Ukraine: Crimean Officials Meet U.S. Embassy Official

LD1804200696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, April 18 (Interfax - Ukraine) — Yevheniy Supruniuk, Speaker of Crimea's Parliament, and Vice-Speaker Anushevan Danelian met in Simferopol Thursday with Secretary to the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine Eric Green.

The meeting covered a broad range of issues in connection with the constitutional processes in Ukraine and Crimea, problems involved in the settlement of deported citizens, who returned to the peninsula, IF-U [INTERFAX-UKRAINE] has been told at the press-center of the Crimean Parliament.

Speaking on the endorsement of Crimea's Constitution by the Ukrainian Parliament, Y.Supruniuk noted that "despite a normalization of relations and the drawing closer of the stands of Kiev and Simferopol, there are yet many outstanding issues, which have to be settled," Y.Supruniuk pointed out.

On April 4, Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada adopted a law endorsing the Constitution of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea with the exception of a number of articles running counter to the laws of Ukraine.

A.Danelian briefed the American diplomat on the course of discussion in the Parliament of Crimea of the issue of the restoration of rights of the once deported citizens. On Wednesday, the Supreme Council of Crimea passed the decision on setting up a commission to draft a new bill "On the restoration of the rights of the Crimean Tatar people, Armenians, Bulgarians, Greeks and Germans, who were deported from Crime in 1941 and 1944".

The Crimean Tatars are known to press ahead for sealing in laws of their rights to citizenship, employment and government aid for resettlement and restoration of property rights. They are urging Kyiv that it pass a law to this effect.

Around 250,000 deportees have returned in Crimea by now. In 1996, the Ukrainian Government is planning to set aside 3.6 trillion krb [karbovantsi] from the national budget for the settlement of the returning deportees. Kiev is urging Uzbekistan, Russia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan to participate in the resolution of problems of deportees.

Eric Green is planning to meet today with Chairman of the Majlis of the Crimean Tatar People Mustafa Jamilev and Crimean Deputy Speaker, Vice-Chairman of Majlis Refat Chubarov. The American diplomat also intends to visit the populated localities where Crimean Tatars, who returned home, are currently resident.

National Affairs

Ukraine: Rukh Seeks Signatures To Ban Communist Party

MK1804112096 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Apr 96 p 3

[NEGA report: "Ukraine"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 26 April, the People's Rukh of Ukraine [Movement for Independence] will start to collect signatures in support of a ban on the Communist Party on the territory of the republic as an anti-state entity.

Vyacheslav Chornovil, chairman of the People's Rukh faction, said that "the Democratic and the Republican Parties, and the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists have made such declarative statements more than once."

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According to Vyacheslav Chornovil, the collection of signatures has already started in some parts of Ukraine. Initiators are expecting to collect several million signatures. Leaders of the People's Rukh regard this action "merely as a means to exert pressure on the parliament, since people's signatures will have no legal force."

According to Vyacheslav Chornovil, chairman of the People's Rukh parliamentary faction, an unofficial conciliatory commission has been set up at the Supreme Council [Rada], including representatives of 10 of 12 deputy groups and factions (except the socialists and the communists). The commission is operating simultaneously with the Supreme Council Presidium and intends to submit for discussion a draft constitution worked out on the basis of the main draft and coordinated with the president.

Ukraine: Deputies on Adoption of Crimean Constitution

WS1804132796 Kiev VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 11 Apr 96 p 3

[Commentaries by Vyacheslav Chornovil, leader of the Ukrainian Rukh; Petro Sheyko, chairman of the legislative commission for procedural issues; Serhiy Sobolyev, leader of the "Reforms" parliamentary group; and Oleh Vitovych, leader of the Ukrainian National Assembly, on the newly adopted Crimean Constitution, prepared by Tetyana Melnychuk: "The Crimean Constitution Will Have To Be 'Operated' on Yet"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The historic event, a long-time dream of Crimean residents and a long-time fear of those supporting the idea of a unified state, has finally occured. The event is, of course, the adoption of the Crimean Constitution by the Ukrainian parliament. Although it was adopted only "partially" (of 136 articles, 20 were voted down), Crimean politicians celebrated the victory anyway. After all, they managed to implement a decision giving their Republic its own Constitution, and not just some Statute. As it turned out, however, the ebullience was premature. The adversaries of the Crimean Basic Law, who lowered their flags only temporarily, quickly snapped out of the blow and decided that with work on the Ukrainian Constitution still pending, they have an opportunity (and the desire, too!) to raise this issue once again. So, the Crimean Constitution stands a good chance of being turned into the notorious Statute, and the Crimean Republic into just an autonomous republic. In any case, many people's deputies do not hide that this is where they will again try to canalize this process. Whether or not they will succeed is, of course, a disputable issue. After all, it remains a mystery how the decision in favor of the Crimean Constitution was "rammed" through the Ukrainian legislature. As is known, it was passed by a minimal, 210, required majority of votes. If only two deputies had left the session hall, the Crimean Constitution issue would again have been "frozen" for an indefinite period of time. But facts remain facts: Despite the fact that the deputies decided to block the Crimean Constitution at the preliminary meeting of groups and factions (until the new Ukrainian Constitution is adopted), the situation suddenly took an unexpected turn after the recent adversaries of the Crimean Constitution suddenly voted "yea."

It is easy to guess what will happen next: None of the sides will surrender their position without a fight. This means that the "Crimean Constitution" case will remain closed for a long time yet. Here is what several political leaders think about this.

Vyacheslav Chornovil, leader of the Ukrainian Rukh: One should not have adopted the Crimean Constitution before the Ukrainian Constitution. What has been done is absurd — the cart has been put before the horse. I do not know who and why felt such an urge. I believe that this was done on purpose — so that later, during the work on the Ukrainian Constitution, one is able to force deputies to automatically incorporate provisions from the Crimean Basic Law into the text of the Ukrainian Constitution. By the way, this is what the now famous Boldyrev talked about during his television appearance. Besides, how can it be possible that the Crimean Constitution has not yet been adopted — it will have to be approved in the third reading — but the already approved provisions are being made into law all of a sudden? It is not possible. Laws are adopted in their entirety, not in part! The main problem is that the text of the Ukrainian Basic Law, which we are to discuss, does not contain such notions as the "Republic of Crimea" or the "Crimean Constitution." It has the "Crimean autonomy" and the "Statute of Crimea." Therefore, by adopting the Crimean Constitution, if only partly, they are trying to make us bring the Constitution of the country with the Constitution of the autonomous republic — that is, to legalize the above notions.

Petro Sheyko, chairman of the legislative Commission for Procedural Issues: I am sure that in the constitutional process, you have to be consistent in the first place. Therefore, you should first pass the Ukrainian Constitution, and then get down to principles determining relations between central and regional bodies. It could be an agreement or some other forms, including the constitution of an autonomous republic. But going along the path that we have chosen by approving the Crimean Constitution before our country's Basic Law

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is not a logical thing to do. Moreover, it is not entirely safe because we have "charted" a structure of the Constitution of the Crimean Autonomous Republic without even knowing what the Ukrainian Basic Law will be like. What if we will have to "cut" the Crimean Constitution during our work on the Ukrainian one? It is easy to guess that this would strain the situation on the peninsula even further and trigger a new spiral of charges by Crimean residents that we meddle into their life and change our own decisions. And one more thing: One can get the feeling that the autonomy deliberately produced an absolutely imperfect draft of its Constitution, thus throwing the "apple of discord" dividing the Ukrainian parliament on this issue.

By the way, in my opinion, procedures were violated. You cannot enact just one half of a law, but the entire law. You can adopt an entire constitution, but never only a part of it. I guess no parliament in the world has ever done so in the past. This is why I believe that the decision to approve the Law on the Crimean Constitution is more than incorrect. Most important, it will never work, that is, it will fail to stabilize the situation. Why? I am confident that in this particular case, someone is playing a political scenario which he engineered himself. This means that there can be no positive results. I think that the text of the Crimean Basic Law may yet undergo changes as the Ukrainian parliament will be working on the national constitution. On the other hand, articles of general nature which do not have to closely follow the national constitution will hardly be changed. However, the Crimean Constitution contains provisions that simply cannot exist. Life itself will prompt us on what to do.

Serhiy Sobolyev, leader of the "Reforms" parliamentary group: I came up with my own option, which was supported by many deputies. Incidentally, it was also endorsed by the Commission for Legal Policies. I proposed that we give the Crimean parliament a free hand to revise the provisions and articles rejected by the Ukrainian Supreme Council. After the complete text of the Crimean Constitution is ready, a final decision could be made on it. The Crimean Constitution should on no account have been approved in part. This brings confusion into legislative activities and contradicts all legal norms. By the way, everyone agreed with this at the meeting of factions — both reds, whites, left, and right. I do not have a slightest idea why on earth they voted in favor of the Crimean Constitution. Most probably, this happened because of the emotional condition prevailing in the session hall, as is often the case in our parliament.

Oleh Vitovych, leader of the UNA [Ukrainian National Assembly]: We should not have enacted the Law on the Crimean Constitution. I think that this will affect the situation both in Crimea and in Ukraine, in general. After all, if most legislative deputies agree, in their words, that Ukraine should become a single, unitarian state in the future, what sense does it make to give Crimea the status of an autonomous republic? One can speak at length about what powers the local Crimean authorities may receive. But you cannot possibly create a republic inside a state! The most horrible thing is that a precedent has been created. Now, the Carpathian region, Donbass, and others may follow the footsteps of Crimea. Many Ukrainian regions have a good reason to consider themselves exceptional territories.... And we, instead of preventing such developments, plant contradictions in our Basic Law from the very beginning of the constitutional process. Just see what we get: On the one hand, the Constitution says that Ukraine is a unified, not a federative, state; while on the other hand, there is the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. The farthest where we can go on Crimea is creating a free economic zone on that territory. If Crimeans want to live well, they should go down this path. Increased living standards — as experience shows — removes many political problems. In addition, Crimean autonomy must be liquidated as a political phenomenon. We, the UNA deputies, will seek this during parliamentary debates on the Ukrainian Basic Law. We will try at least to bring the legislature back to discussing this issue. I know that many deputies agree that the decision activating the Crimean Constitution was incorrect.

Ukraine: Crimean Council Adopts Rulings Contrary to Constitution

LD1804201096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, April 18 (Interfax - Ukraine) — On Thursday, Crimea's Supreme Council has adopted a number of amendments and addenda to the law of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea "Of the status of deputy of the Supreme Council of Crimea" of June 15, 1994. In keeping with the ruling of the legal service of the Crimean Parliament, the amendments are in conflict with laws of Ukraine.

According to an IF-U [INTERFAX-UKRAINE] correspondent, under the law of amendments, the Crimean deputies employed in Parliament on a permanent basis will have an equal status with civil servicemen, which ensures for them a number of additional benefits. The deputies will thus preserve qualification categories, grades and paid titles. The certification is to be carried out on fixed dates.

At the same time, according to the conclusion tabled at the session by Chairman of the state legal service of the Crimean Parliament Anatoliy Tytarchuk, the

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new wording of the law of the Status of Crimean Parliament deputy runs counter to Ukraine's Law "Of Civil Service". According to him, to resolve that issue, the Crimean Parliament deputies should come out with a legislative initiative in Ukraine's Parliament.

According to the amendments, the Crimean Parliament deputy has the advantage of appearing on issues of activities of deputies in state-owned mass media." The papers provided to deputies on the instruction of committees, deputy groups and factions of the Supreme Council of Crimea "shall be published or circulated through state-owned mass media on a mandatory basis."

On top of that, the phrase "the Ukrainian Law 'Of government service' applies to them (deputies — IF-U note)."

Economic Issues

Ukraine: National Bank Attempts To Halt Fall of U.S. Dollar

WS1904092096 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0647 GMT 19 Apr 96

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev — On the morning of April 18 due to significantly higher supply than demand the National Bank of Ukraine did not allow trading in U.S. dollars to begin at the Ukrainian Interbank Currency Exchange. INFOBANK learned from sources at the exchange that only after the NBU was able to achieve a certain decrease in the volume of dollars being sold did trading begin between 4 and 5 p.m. As the result of trading the American dollar fell by Kbv 1,500.

Speaking to an INFOBANK correspondent about the situation on Ukraine's currency market Viktor Lysytstkyy, adviser to the NBU's chairman of the board, said that the tendency for foreign currency supplies to increase in exchange trading has been observed since January 1996 which has subsequently been reflected in all exchange rates. Mr. Lysytskyy pointed out that the volume sold of the three main currencies (the U.S. dollar, the German DM and the Russian ruble) at the Interbank Currency Exchange in the first quarter of 1996 was an average of 26 percent higher than during the last quarter of 1995. In comparison with the first quarter of 1995 it increased close to 3.5 times. NBU estimates show that during all of 1995 Ukrainian businesses sold almost $8 billion on Ukraine's currency market.

Mr. Lysystkyy expiains the sharp increase in the U.S. dollar as resulting from increased revenues from Ukrainian exports, slowed inflation, and the flow into Ukraine of Russian capital on the eve of presidential elections there. He said that neither the Ukrainian government nor the NBU nor their Western advisers predicted such an unexpected increase in the supply of American dollars. In his words, however, the NBU will be able to find a way to stabilize the USD rate or at least to maintain it at a level of "very slow decrease."

Ukraine: Head of Kiev Tax Section on Tax Evasion

WS1804140896 Kiev VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 10 Apr 96 p 9

[Interview with Halina Lysenko, taxation section chief in the Kiev Administration for Taxation and Fees, Ukrainian State Taxation Inspectorate, by M. Krupyyevska; place and date not given: "One Will Not Run Away From Taxes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *As of today, 71,632 legal entities who are potential taxpayers have been registered so far in Kiev, but only 50,077 of them are law-abiding. As regards directors and entrepreneurs, inventing or adopting "valuable" experience and then telling a friend about a new loophole to sidestep tax rules has become a kind of a hobby. A VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI correspondent has interviewed Halina Lysenko, taxation section chief in the Kiev Administration for Taxation and Fees, Ukrainian State Taxation Inspectorate, on how taxes are being paid.*

[Krupyyevska] In all countries of the world the tax service reports to the president; in Ukraine, however, it reports to the Finance Ministry. Based on world experience, experts think that if taxes account for more than 40 percent of GDP, the state cannot ensure even simple reproduction of [capital]. How high is this figure in Ukraine?

[Lysenko] I cannot tell you. Irrespective of how high this figure could be, taxes must be paid. It is impossible to imagine a Western entrepreneur who says loudly that he does not pay taxes to the treasury. In the West, this could mean imprisonment. In Ukraine, however, to run away from taxes is a matter of "honor, valor, and heroism."

[Krupyyevska] It is no secret that cash transactions have become popular in Ukraine. Messengers with suitcases filled with cash are traveling both across the country and abroad. Is this a way to evade taxes?

[Lysenko] Regrettably, cash transactions have become a profitable business. Another popular means of tax evasion is the registration of a company under a fake legal address (for example, 1,500 enterprises are registered under the same address in Mykhaylivska Street). These companies in reality are handling their business under addresses that are unknown to our tax service. We have repeatedly informed relevant district

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administrations that such practices are inadmissible, but things are not moving forward. Naturally, the invisible enterprises do not pay their taxes.

[Krupyyevska] Who has tax privileges?

[Lysenko] Participants in the Chernobyl cleanup program, the Afghan war veterans, invalids, World War II veterans, and joint ventures do not pay taxes on their income and profits.

[Krupyyevska] Are Supreme Council deputies also exempted from paying taxes?

[Lysenko] The edict No. 204/94 of 4 May 1994 "On Granting Economic Privileges to Enterprises and Organizations Which Ensure Activities of the Ukrainian Supreme Council, the Cabinet of Ministers, and the Presidential Administration" has been replaced by presidential edict No. 50/95 of 30 June 1995 which grants tax privileges to the above-mentioned structures.

[Krupyyevska] For example, a natural person publishes an advertisement in which he offers his services for money. What about paying taxes in such cases?

[Lysenko] According to legislation, citizens rendering services to the people must obtain a certificate which confirms that a natural person has been officially registered. There is a special service in our structure which handles such matters. There is a punishment mechanism of sanctions and fines for tax evaders.

There is an opinion — if large enterprises are at issue — that it is possible to settle things, at least some issues, with inspectors. Some businessmen specify amounts of such "bribes" on a weekly basis in their diaries. Regrettably, every family has its black sheep.

We are a young service of a young state. In the United States, not all were law-abiding from the very beginning. By the way, they have various guidebooks which recommend "101 ways" to reduce taxes. Truth be told, in this aspect we also do not lag behind: even scientific seminars are organized to outline a general line of protection from taxes.

[Krupyyevska] But taxes are truly high. If one pays honestly for everything, enterprises will hardly have the means to develop production.

[Lysenko] I repeat: the law is the law and it must be obeyed.

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Belarus

Belarus: FM Syanko on Belarusian-Russian Relations

LD1804185396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1556 GMT 18 Apr 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Some experts believe that the Belarussian-Russian community, established by the Belarussian and Russian Presidents Aleksandr Lukashenka and Boris Yeltsin is a result of inadequate attention on the part of the West to former Soviet republics, including Belarus. Political scientists argue that Minsk had lost the hope for Western support in developing its economy and had to opt for integration with Moscow.

Interfax correspondent Vyacheslav Zenkovich has asked Belarussian Foreign Minister Uladizimir Syanko whether this point of view is justified.

[Syanko] The treaty of the Belarussian-Russian community is a logical result of tremendous, consistent efforts by the Belarussian President Aleksandr Lukashenka to translate into reality the aspirations of a majority of the country's population and to expand integration processes in relations with Russia.

I cannot underestimate the results of the May 1995 referendum in which most people voted for the presidential policy of Belarussian-Russian integration. This is not an exaggeration.

It would be very wrong to say that Minsk's policy of integration is a result of insufficient assistance from the West. True, that assistance is insignificant in spite of efforts exerted by the Belarussian side. Belarus openly and consistently seeks intensive and dynamic cooperation with the United States and West European countries. This is seen in the conclusion of the temporary agreement with the European Union on trade and active steps by Belarus aimed at securing admission in the Council of Europe, participation in the Partnership for Peace program and consistent efforts to develop bilateral relations with countries all over the world.

True, it cannot be denied that Western policies towards Belarus have been rather reserved. There are several reasons for this, such as Belarus's clear-cut policy of integration with Russia and a specific vision economic reforms being held in the country.

Whereas in the economic sphere any isolation of Belarus is out of the question, in politics we have been able to see the West's negative attitude to the Belarussian leadership.

We live in Europe at the end of the 20th century, when the ideas of building a common European home have conquered the minds of politicians and an overwhelming majority of the population in West European and post-socialist countries. If the West continues its current policies towards Belarus, this may have undesirable effects and ideologize these relations. Tensions and even confrontations are likely to follow.

[IF] Is there anything about the Belarussian-Russian treaty that makes you worry?

[Syanko] Yes, I do have certain doubts and worries. Belarus and Russia are difficult to compare by virtue of their territories and potentials. The population ratio is one to fifteen and the territorial ratio, one to seventy, let alone the tremendous difference in economic potentials. In this situation the implementation of the principles of formal equality of two votes in making decisions requires extremely balanced and consistent actions by each country's representatives in the community's bodies.

I would very much like a third, and even fourth country to join the Community. Two or three votes by smaller countries would balance the vote of powerful Russia.

In Belarus there is no serious political force opposed to integration with Russia. The first phase of that integration is not fraught with the risk Russia will take over Belarus.

However, in the future it would be essential to establish a balanced mechanism of integration by admitting new members in the community.

I am for a special relationship between our two countries. I would like them to be very close. I would like Belarus to be an absolutely reliable strategic partner and a friend of Russia in various fields. I am certain that this will be possible only if Belarussian statehood is preserved.

[IF] To what extent, do you think, the growing integration trends within the CIS are linked with open resistance by the West to the appearance of CIS goods in its markets and NATO's plans for expansion by admitting East European countries?

[Syanko] I cannot say that the West openly resists the influx of CIS-manufactured products to its markets.

It is beyond all doubt, though, that the West European countries unequivocally and firmly protect their markets from uncontrolled imports.

West European integration in the first place implies tough control of domestic markets in order to prevent

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an unlimited penetration of goods from countries not affiliated with the European community.

Even the admission of Central and East European countries, let alone post-Soviet republics, in the EU will require a long period of adjustments and coordination.

What we sometimes call the struggle for markets will continue in Europe for a very long time. In the first place, that will be seen in various measures to protect domestic markets. For that reason our contacts with Western Europe will follow tight rules. We must be aware of that and prepared for that.

In this, of course, we should not completely discard political and strategic reasons. Yet we must proceed from the realities of economic cooperation in Europe. It will be very important to bear in mind that many manufactures from the CIS countries are as a rule of poorer quality than their West European counterparts or are simply uncompetitive in the Western market.

As for the plans for NATO's expansion, this factor is unlikely to affect to any serious extent integration processes either in Belarussian-Russian relations or relations with the CIS.

CIS countries have different attitudes to the plans for NATO's expansion, however, they are unanimous that any haste in this matter would be very undesirable. The CIS countries would like NATO's expansion to be evolutionary, if it does take place after all.

Apparently this will be so. I see no alternative to it, because any other way may bring about a split and confrontation in Europe.

[IF] In case some East European countries are admitted in NATO, is there any chance a military and political union will be created within the CIS similar to the Warsaw Pact?

[Syanko] The creation of a new military and political bloc in the territory of the former USSR is apparently impossible, at least because Ukraine will certainly not become its member. Its legislation rules this out.

On the whole I do not rule out that in the CIS there may appear not a military bloc but a smoothly functioning system of cooperation by the armed forces of the newly-independent states. For instance, a rather effective anti-aircraft defense system is being created within the CIS already. No military alliance has been set up yet, but military cooperation is continuing on conditions beneficial to many CIS member-countries.

[IF] Is there any chance that military cooperation by the CIS countries will become closer after appropriate amendments have been made to the current treaty of collective security?

[Syanko] I have no idea of what analysts at the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces think of this. To me it is absolutely clear that our neighbor in the East was and will remain a country with global interests. The question of NATO's expansion cannot but worry Moscow. If the North Atlantic alliance expands earthwards, this would inevitably bring about considerable changes in Russia's military doctrine. At the same time any measures Russia will take will fail to change the new geopolitical situation.

[IF] Will then East-West confrontation become a reality?

[Syanko] Before we consider that question we must define clearly what is understood as the East.

In the past the term East applied to the USSR and a vast area in Central and Eastern Europe. True, those areas were less developed than Western Europe, but in their industrial potential and population the former socialist countries were a powerful complement to the potential of the Soviet Union.

Can we now use the term East in that sense in reference to such republics as Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, let alone Poland, Hungary, the Czech republic and others? What we can say with certainty is that the former socialist countries can be no longer regarded as Russia's foreign policy allies.

So the term East is primarily applicable to Russia alone.

Russia cannot confront with the West, whether it is supported by Belarus or not. I believe we have come close to some new situation in international relations in which the sole correct option would be to intensively and insistently look for understanding and ways of cooperation between Russia and Europe.

Should Belarus join a close bilateral military union with Russia, the risk of a confrontation with the West would affect it country, too. I believe that the CIS member-countries will be reluctant to unite with Russia for confrontation with the West.

The history of East-West relations has seen quite a few "coolings" and "thaws." I believe there will be no serious, politicized confrontation leading to some military decisions. On the whole disarmament trends in the world will expand, although nuclear missiles will for a long time be retained by a number of countries as a deterrent.

A great deal will depend on developments in Russia, including the success of economic reforms there.

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[IF] Can you speculate what nature a future East-West confrontation might have? In contrast to the cold war era, when ideologies played serious roles, new confrontations may become deideologized. All CIS countries have embarked firmly on the road of market reforms and their government policies are very similar to those of Western countries. But there have been quite a few cases in history when confrontations between countries professing similar ideologies were far more serious than those of ideological adversaries...

[Syanko] It is extremely important for Russia and the West to keep ideology out of their foreign policies.

Statements to the effect that NATO's expansion to the East is expanding the sphere of democracy sound very unconvincing, to say the least. This is so for the sole reason that hundreds of millions of people who grew up in the years of ideological confrontation and the cold war are very negative about the idea of NATO's expansion. True, to a majority of the adult population of the CIS NATO is no longer a hostile organization, but it is not a friendly one, either. If NATO plans to expand, there must be a concept acceptable to everybody. One must remember: it is impossible to foster one's own security by weakening neighbors.

[IF] Is there any realistic pattern both East and West can follow to rule out any complications in their relations?

[Syanko] It is important to understand that Russia and Belarus will find it extremely difficult to prevent the former East European socialist countries from joining NATO. Their intention relies on experience.

Poland has seen Russia as a source of encroachments on its national interests for years. The last time the Soviet Union infringed Polish interests was by redrawing the then state borders in 1939. And in 1945 the USSR imposed socialism alien to the Poles.

In the current world situation there is no ideal formula of preventing conflicts. The world community must try to find compromises for the sake of the supreme goal — peace and neighborly cooperation.

Each step in this direction must be regarded as an element of building a new system of international security. Belarussian-Russian integration should be looked at from this angle, too. It is a natural integral element of pan-European integration. The goal of Belarussian-Russian relations is to foster stability in the post-Soviet space and in Europe in general. I see no reason why Western countries shouldn't pursue the same goal.

Belarus: Economic Aspects of Treaty With Russia Viewed

WS1804132096 Minsk RESPUBLIKA in Russian 10 Apr 96 p 2

[Interview with Ivan Bambiza, Belarusian minister for CIS affairs, by Andrey Patrebin; place and date not given: "The Point Is In Rationally Combining Interests"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The formation of a single economic area and the efficient functioning of a common market is one of the key aims of the Belarusian-Russian treaty on the creation of a Community [of Sovereign Republics]. Today the treaty looks like one more step on the path of integration, which has already covered such stages as the treaty on friendship and cooperation, the agreement on the Customs Union, and a number of other agreements. A RESPUBLIKA correspondent interviews Ivan Bambiza, minister for CIS affairs, on economic aspects of the 2 April treaty.**

[Patrebin] Ivan Mikhaylavich, which provisions of the treaty among those pertaining to economic links of both countries are the most substantial?

[Bambiza] First of all, it is necessary to single out the obligations of Belarus and Russia to create equal possibilities for free economic activity of economic entities. This means creating conditions for the free transfer of commodities, services, capital, and workforces. The sides also intend to synchronize stages, timeframes, and the depth of economic reforms that are being implemented. After some time, in the course of implementing the treaty in practice, we will bring our economic legislation closer and create a single legislative basis with regard to some issues.

Even today it is necessary to continue unifying the tax and customs legislation. Last year, after signing the agreement on the Customs Union, we noted a real proximity in our positions. Once the issue is to form a single economic area, it is necessary to create equal conditions for competition — such is the fundamental position of our government.

[Patrebin] The governments of Russia and Belarus will surely continue with concrete work to create a legal basis for cooperation, will they not?

[Bambiza] Of course they will. For instance, such efforts in the sphere of price formation have already led to the signing of an intergovernmental agreement on pricing policy. It determines single approaches and methods in this sphere. The agreement is already in force and bears its fruits. We avoid unnecessary competition or, for example, a wide gap between prices for the same

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commodities. A single approach has been determined with regard to energy resources and raw materials — internal market prices are being used.

[Patrebin] What unified programs are envisioned within the framework of the Community?

[Bambiza] Our countries will unify efforts in implementing economic, social, and cultural programs, including both bilateral and international ones.

Strategic importance is being attributed to the development of unified energy and transport areas, which will be formed by the end of this year. There is also a project to modernize the Moscow-Minsk-Warsaw-Berlin highway, which is already being implemented. An agreement on joining efforts to this end has been signed with Russia; the construction is being subsidized by the European Union since this is part of the system of European highways, a kind of transport corridor. Thus, Belarus and Russia, by jointly renewing the transport infrastructure, are advancing toward Europe and taking part in all-European programs. The same assessment may also be made with regard to projects for developing the energy systems of our countries.

As is known, Belarus, through cooperation with the "Gazprom" Russian Joint Stock Company, is participating in a monumental project to create the Yamal-West Europe gas pipeline. I will note that the oil and gas pipelines traversing our territory has become a serious problem today. Built essentially 25-30 years ago, they are very worn-out and need hundreds of billions of rubles for their repair and exchange every year. In my opinion, we should not "stick" to the worn-out pipes, but cooperate with Russia's major oil and gas companies.

Speaking about social programs, for instance, our Ministry of Social Protection is preparing an agreement with the Russian Federation on pension security of citizens working in the Far North. There are 10,000 such people in Belarus; they worked on Russian territory, and we think that it is necessary to finance them jointly.

[Patrebin] Does the treaty envision joint state support for enterprises and firms of great importance for both countries?

[Bambiza] Such steps will be taken. Even today we can speak about the actual participation of Russian oil companies in the destiny of refineries in Mazyr and Navapolatsk. We are sure that Russian capital — LUKoil, Yukos, Slavneft — will participate in their reconstruction. The Russians are interested in making their enterprises efficient, and here is where their interests coincide with ours.

The creation of the Community will undoubtedly reanimate the military-industrial complex which, it seems, remained the most integral complex of all. The Belarusian Government has initiated the implementation of projects of Russian-Belarusian financial-industrial groups (about 10 of them are envisioned). In addition, within the framework of the Community, joint investments will be made in mutually complementary enterprises by both state and private capital. This requires the creation of a single procedure for investments, as well as a favorable climate for investors, in Belarus and Russia.

[Patrebin] Judging by all appearances, Belarus is displaying initiative in the formation of such programs, is it not?

[Bambiza] Indeed, we are very interested in jointly subsidizing these programs and filling the treaty on the Community with specific content. At the same time, I would like to recall those good things existing in the past: division of labor, cooperation and specialization within the framework of a single national economy. I think that it is necessary now to restore that division of labor — providing it brings practical advantages to Belarus and Russia. Therefore, the treaty provides for the creation of single economic complexes.

The point is in combining the interests of both sides, as well as improving and modernizing their scientific, technical, and production potential. There is no need to organize production capacities that will duplicate one another; it is necessary to rationally use the existing capacities. Such an approach undoubtedly serves Belarus' interests.

[Patrebin] Does this refer to bilateral relations or those within the CIS?

[Bambiza] This also refers to the CIS as a whole. Look: Russia has not been able to revitalize the Lipetsk Tractor Plant; Uzbekistan has not been able to make its cotton-picking equipment competitive (tractors made according to a technology from the Minsk Tractor Plant with the Minsk D-240 engine and assembled in Uzbekistan are lower in quality than those produced in Minsk). Is it not simpler to return to cooperation with the Minsk Tractor Plant which today has a program for producing new tractors? I think that such problems will be seriously considered at the meeting of CIS heads of governments on 12 April — when it is planned to adopt a unified program of agricultural machine building in the Commonwealth [of Independent States].

[Patrebin] Ivan Mikhaylavich, how will the creation of the Community influence the Customs Union, which already includes Belarus and Russia?

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[Bambiza] Cooperation will be continued in the interests of enterprises of both countries, as well as in the interests of commodity producers and importers. This cooperation is assuming more and more of a strategic character: One can say that the Republic of Belarus covers a customs corridor in the west, which is of great importance for Russia. This is a route for basic cargo shipments from Europe; its operation considerably influences the economies of both countries. Therefore, Russia assists Belarus in equipping its western border. After the signing of the treaty, however, a far wider field of activity appears for improving the customs mechanism and taking into account mutual interests.

[Patrebin] The sides agreed on bringing their monetary and fiscal systems closer to each other; these systems are scheduled to be unified by the end of 1997. In which way will this rapprochement be accomplished? What are its conditions?

[Bambiza] This issue will probably be the one most discussed by economists and bankers of our countries. This is a very serious problem requiring deep analysis and painstaking work on the part of specialists.

For the time being, we can speak about the need to elaborate a system of practical measures to support the stability of exchange rates of our national currencies in order to prevent new "black Tuesdays." The governments of Belarus and Russia will be striving to keep the inflation level in their countries as low as possible.

We will also coordinate efforts to decrease our budget deficits. We agreed to bring our budget systems closer to each other; therefore, we are going to study our mutual experiences.

[Patrebin] What role will the Community's leading bodies play in the development of integration of the two countries?

[Bambiza] The interstate bodies will adopt resolutions on specific programs which will not be of recommendable — but obligatory — nature for departments and organizations. Undoubtedly, this will sometimes require introducing changes in the national legislation. At the same time, the practice of bilateral relations will become easier since negotiations and arrangements will require less time. The creation of the Community's higher bodies is oriented not toward exerting some pressure "from the top" on the governments and parliaments of both countries, but toward practical work over joint programs and projects.

[Patrebin] Will the treaty on the Community modify the thesis about the "multidirectional" character of Belarusian policy?

[Bambiza] The creation of the Community does not imply at all that Belarus will weaken the development of its relations with other countries of the CIS, the Baltics, East and West Europe, and Asia. They will be developed steadily and dynamically. Such a stance is being supported by both the president and the government. Accusations of the one-sided, pro-Russian orientation of Belarus, in my opinion, are far from reality. This is testified by the negotiations of A. Lukashenka with Polish President A. Kwasniewski and a trip of the Belarusian president to the FRG, which is currently being prepared. It is also worth remembering Prime Minister M. Chyhir's visit to Ukraine, as well as the development of relations with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Moldova. Incidentally, the deputy prime ministers of Moldova and Belarus, I. Hutsu [name as transliterated] and V. Dawhalyow, will soon sign a bilateral trade and economic agreement. It is also planned that Deputy Prime Minister S. Linh will pay a visit to Ukraine.

[Patrebin] However, the relations with Russia are a strategic priority, are they not?

[Bambiza] Yes, they are. This priority is based on the actual situation of our economy; on the traditional relations which formed between the countries and nations over years; on contacts between enterprises; and, finally, on ties between people. I would like to note that the state policy of Belarus toward Russia was worked out according to proposals from economic executives, proposals necessitated by life.

[Patrebin] As is known, Belarus advocates closer integration within the CIS framework. How will the treaty with Russia influence this stance?

[Bambiza] The signing of the treaty speaks about the will of the Belarusian leadership to speed up integration. Belarus will take an active position in the CIS in the future, too.

Incidentally, at their meeting in Moscow on 12 April, CIS heads of governments are to consider approximately 20 issues. They include a plan for prospective integration of the CIS, which is actively supported by Belarus.

I would like to underscore that Belarus does not close itself within the framework of the Community, but strives to bring its relations with all CIS member countries to a new level.

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Belarus: Lukashenka Demotes, Discharges Former Interior Minister

WS1704145296 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1900 GMT 16 Apr 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] As it has become known to our information agency, today Alyaksandr Lukashenka signed an edict demoting Major General of the Internal Service Yuryy Zakharenka [former interior minister] to the rank of police colonel due to a gross financial misdemeanor and serious negligence in ensuring law and order in the territory of the Republic. The same document charges the interior minister with the task of transferring Police Colonel Yuryy Zakharenka to the reserves due to the completion of his full term of service.

Belarus: Lukashenka Appoints Three Top Banking Sector Officials

WS1704124896 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has signed three edicts on nominations in the banking sector.

Mikalay Adamavich Byalow was nominated as Interbank Currency Exchange general director. Lyudmila Mikhaylawna Rykava became a deputy chairman of the Belarusian National Bank board. Hawryshev Alyaksandr Anatolyavich was appointed to the post of chairman of the Belarusian Joint-Stock Commercial Agroindustrial Bank.

Belarus: Exiled Belarusian Opposition Leader Gives News Conference

WS1604130596 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 16 Apr 96 p 3

[Report by Jacek Jakimczyk in Wroclaw: "Paznyak in Poland; Hard Times Have Come for Belarus"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The further development of events in Belarus might destabilize the situation in Europe," warned Chairman of the Belarusian Popular Front Zyanan Paznyak at a news conference held in Wroclaw yesterday. He claims that the integration agreement signed between Russia and Belarus had been planned back in 1994, when Alyaksandr Lukashenka became Belarusian president.

"Russia found a man with whose hands it could implement its imperialistic policy without taking its own gloves off," said Paznyak of the Belarusian president. He believes Russia will now attempt to incorporate Ukraine. It will also exert permanent pressure on Poland for wanting to join NATO and the EU.

"There is practically no freedom of speech in Belarus; the independent press is published in Lithuania," said the Belarusian opposition leader. "Even Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Mikalay Hryb [as published] has no access to radio and television simply because Lukashenka dislikes him." Paznyak also gave a number of examples of violations of human rights by Minsk officials. He pointed out that the number of schools with Belarusian as an obligatory class has dramatically decreased since 1994. There are currently a mere 19 percent, as compared with an approximate 80 percent a year and a half ago.

Having been threatened by the militia, Zyanan Paznyak secretly left Belarus and went to Ukraine. From there he went to the Czech Republic, and has currently arrived in Wroclaw, where he might form an institution modeled after the Chechen Information Center in Krakow.

Moldova

Moldova: Sangheli: No Help Given Romania To Build Nuclear Plant

AU1304141796 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1945 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, April 12 (INFOTAG) — "Bucharest never offered us to participate in building the Cernavoda nuclear power station in Romania", stated Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli.

Such an initiative was made by the Moldovan Government, he told INFOTAG. "In the summer of 1993, I flew the construction site over on a helicopter, when the building works were frozen at the moment. Its two generating blocks are so small that they are incapable to solve even Romanian energy problems", Andrei Sangheli said.

According to him, Moldova is not facing a problem of insufficient power generating facilities. Such facilities are available, but not all of them are working efficiently. However, the Government has solved a question of an autonomous and reliable power supply for Chisinau. The next step is to provide northern and southern districts with electricity, at least by 50 percent of their real needs.

The Moldavskaya Power Station (near Tiraspol) is capable to generate 18 billion kW/h of electricity a year, though the reals Moldova's annual need (including Dniester) is only 16 billion. The available power generating facilities can produce 20 billion.

With a reasonable organization in the energy sector, Moldova could even export 2-3 billion kW/h every year.

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"Our nearest neighbors — Romania, Ukraine, as well as Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria are suffering a power deficit, which only aggravated after the Chernobyl nuclear station was shut down", the Prime Minister said.

Moldova: Sangheli on Debt, Gas Supplies, Nuclear Power

LD1804191396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1556 GMT 18 Apr 96

["Another installment" of interview with Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli by INTERFAX correspondent Aleksandr Tanas, place and date not given; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Tanas] What measures is the Cabinet of Ministers planning to take to tackle the debt problem? It is common knowledge that many producers indebted to the budget and the social fund keep in store tens of millions of dollars worth of products.

[Sangheli] The government has thoroughly studied the debts to the budget and the social fund for the first time in four years.

We now have a full picture of most economic entities owing to the budget and the social fund. This information concerns assets and liabilities and the presence of finished products in stock. Incidentally, there are more than 700 million lei worth of goods in stock. They must be sold within two or three months.

If those products were sold within days, we would lift most financial problems at once, let alone delayed wages, pensions and grants. I believe that half of the debts for electricity would have been paid, too.

The government does not have the levers, special rights, I would say, to market those goods correctly. So far we have developed a time-table for settling all debts by June 1.

I agree that the 20-percent increase in pensions and wages the government has promised this year is meager, yet the government hopes it will play a certain role. If the gross domestic product grows, we shall raise wages and pensions by another 40 percent. I believe that in 1996-1997 we shall achieve the minimum necessary for a normal life.

[Tanas] Some of your colleagues in the government have pointed to two likely ways out of the crisis of non-payments and delayed wages, pensions and grants: monetary emission or foreign loans. Which way do you prefer?

[Sangheli] We must proceed from the fact that some day we will have to account for what we are doing today. The stable financial situation we have now is the achievement of the government and the whole people.

True, if we issue 200 million to 250 million lei, that would make it possible to pay the wage and pension debt. However, prices will be up ten to twelve times at once and never go down. This is the reason why the government cannot take the responsibility to authorize emission to pay the debt.

I believe that this step can be taken only if there is a state of emergency in the country.

[Tanas] The presidential decree to settle all debts by April 1 has failed to be implemented. What are the likely consequences of this for the government?

[Sangheli] The government has looked into that matter in the president's presence.

The decree is necessary is such, but before signing it President Snegur should have discussed it with the ministries of finance and economics to have an idea of what we can afford and what we cannot afford.

The degree is good, but it is unrealistic. It pursues sheerly populist aims. True, it may yield temporary dividends. The people think: the president seeks to solve our problems, and the prime minister is against.

I hope that the government should not meddle in political gambling, because this detracts it from performing crucial functions.

[Tanas] At what stage is the question of including part of the debt to the Russian concern Gazprom for gas supplies into Moldova's state credit?

[Sangheli] Negotiations on that problem have been going on in several directions: with Gazprom proper, with the International Monetary Fund, with the World Bank, with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and with Transdniestria. A way out must be found to ease the burden on the national budget.

The government will formulate several options and submit them to parliament for approval, which would choose the one that suits the country best. All options will be agreed with the national bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

I believe that we cannot enter the autumn and winter of 1996-1997 with the debt totalling $300 million.

[Tanas] Is it realistic for Moldova to take part in building a nuclear power plant in Cernavoda, Romania?

[Sangheli] Let me make it absolutely clear that Romania has never invited us to participate in the nuclear power plant project. It was the Moldovan government's offer.

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I was there in the summer of 1993 and saw the power plant, which was not operational at that time. It has two units. They are too small to resolve the problem of power supply for Romanian industries.

In Moldova there are no problems with electricity. We have already resolved the problem of power supply for Chisinau and we are now dealing with similar problems in southern regions.

The Dniester power plant can produce 18 billion kW/h. Moldova's domestic demand is about 16 billion kW/h, whereas we can produce a total of 20 billion kW/h. I believe that Moldova can export 2-3 billion kW/h to Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania or Ukraine. All these countries have power shortages.

Moldova: Premier Interviewed on Presidential Powers

LD1704180496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 17 Apr 96

["Exclusive interview" with Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli by Interfax correspondent Aleksandr Tanas; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [IF] What do you think about claims that aggravated confrontation between the president and the government resulted in larger "political risks" for western investors in Moldova?

[Sangheli] Western businessmen have a very sensitive reaction to the situation in the country. I think they are less concerned about the "quality" of legislation. At least, they can put forward their proposals on changes in the legislative basis.

It is hard to explain to the investors who is right: Snegur, Sangheli or Lucinschi. There is instability in the republic, everyone offers his arguments about it but instability remains a fact just the same.

[IF] Andrei Sangheli has his electorate. Do you personally plan to use this support at the upcoming presidential elections late this year, or you will offer the electors to vote for another candidate?

[Sangheli] In fact, I am more worried about the spring sowing, ways to make Russia cancel excises and customs dues on exported items, and the growing and collection of harvest so that we have something to share in fall.

[IF] But, the government has two more years to work, and, I think, it should care who the next Moldovan president will be?

[Sangheli] I would say, this is the second concern of the government.

As for me, I estimate today's political developments as an open political struggle, which is too premature. The goal of this struggle is to gain dividends with populist measures and win over the electorate.

[IF] Many people, who know about your economic abilities, say you will not be satisfied with presidential powers assigned by the Constitution. Is it so?

[Sangheli] I have always had enough power, no matter what my post or work were. I have not met a person who would not subordinate to me. As a rule it happened with persuasions, and in some cases I made my subordinates do what I thought was expedient.

The only thing I have been lacking is time. I have always been wrapped up in my job.

As for the electorate, let us wait till the elections. I think the law on presidential elections will set their date for October or November.

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Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan: Premier, Ukrainian Official Discuss Economic Relations

LD1704203896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2019 GMT 17 Apr 96

[By Vladimir Akimov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almaty, April 18 (Itar-Tass) — Kazakh Prime Minister Akezhan Qazhygeldin met Ukrainian Vice-Prime Minister Vasyl Yevtukhov [title as received] on Wednesday to discuss bilateral economic relations between their countries.

The meeting between Qazhygeldin and Yevtukhov, who arrived in Almaty on a brief working visit as head of a government delegation, was followed by expanded talks at the level of delegations.

The delegations discussed ways to expand bilateral cooperation in such fields as the extraction of natural resources and the production of mining equipment and other machinery.

They reached an agreement to set up joint ventures to make cars.

The two countries also signed agreements on a scientific, technological and educational partnership and on military training.

Kazakhstan: Oil Exports Expected To Increase After Russia Lifts Quota

LD1704220796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1306 GMT 17 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Akimov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Almaty, 17 Apr — The Kazakh-U.S. joint venture Tenghizchevroil has an opportunity to spread its wings. During the previous three years, the joint venture had to delay the recovery of oil at the Tenghizskoye oil deposit, which is the biggest in the country. As the result of lengthy talks held today between all the interested parties of the republic and of the Russian Federation, the 1 million tonne annual quota on the amount of oil allowed to be pumped by the joint venture across Russia has been lifted. This year the oil-recovering alliance will be able to pump 4.5 times as much oil as before. The oil will be pumped to Russia via the Atyrau-Samara pipeline and then on to Europe via the system of pipelines belonging to the Russian Transneft company.

This mutual understanding had been achieved mainly due to the fact that it was possible to bring the stands of Kazakhstan and Russia closer together on the future development of the two countries' oil industries; and first, on the transporting of oil. Kazakhstan does not yet have its own pipelines to deliver oil to the external market. This is why it uses Russian pipelines to export Kazakh oil. It goes without saying that Kazakhstan has to take into account Russia's interests while preparing to construct its own pipelines.

Experts believe that due to the increase in the volume of oil exports in 1996 Kazakhstan could make at least $450 million in profit and that it is quite feasible for the state treasury to receive this money. At a meeting that took place last week between Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and James Baker, visiting former U.S. Secretary of State, the Kazakh president said that in the first quarter of 1996 the output of oil had increased by 23 percent as against the same period last year.

Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan: Kyrgyzstan To Take More Active Part in NATO Partnership

LD1704234596 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1509 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bishkek, 17 April (ITAR-TASS) — Kyrgyzstan intends more actively to participate in NATO's Partnership for Peace program. In particular, Kyrgyz servicemen will take part in NATO military exercises scheduled for the summer of 1996 in the United States, Kyrgyz Defense Minister Colonel-General Myrzakhan Subanov told ITAR-TASS today. Subanov has met a U.S. military delegation led by the [former] Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic Lt-Gen John Sheehan who arrived on a visit to Kyrgyzstan. "Possibilities of a much closer interaction between Kyrgyzstan and NATO as well as a number of international issues" were discussed at the meeting, Subanov said.

The Kyrgyz Defense Minister also said that the NATO delegation was interested in the situation on the Kyrgyz-Chinese border as well as military cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Russia. As far as practical results of the meeting were concerned, Subanov said that "John Sheehan recommended, and we supported, the idea of sending 22 Kyrgyz servicemen of the joint Kazakh-Kyrgyz battalion to take part in NATO summer exercises with the U.S. Marine Corp".

An accord has also been reached to continue the practice of training Kyrgyz soldiers and officers in NATO military schools. Subanov said that 15 servicemen of the Kyrgyz Army are at present being trained at a NATO school in the German town of Oberammergau. A group of Kyrgyz officers will be trained in Denmark this summer.

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Kyrgyzstan: Iranian Telecommunications Minister Received for Talks

LD1704195096 Tehran IRNA in English 1729 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bishkek, Republic of Kyrgyzstan, April 17, IRNA — Iranian Minister of Post, Telegraph and Telephone, Mohammad Gharazi, here today told the first joint commission of Iran-Kyrgyzstan that the Islamic Republic was able to help Kyrgyzstan with many of her development projects.

Members of four committees of the first joint commission of Iran-Kyrgyzstan here Wednesday reviewed the reports of their several committees and agreed to amend them for consistency.

On Wednesday, the Iranian minister who shares the chairmanship of the commission with his Kyrgyz counterpart also separately met with First Deputy Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Taqayov and state-secretary for the office of the Kyrgyz Presidency Abdolrazzaqov and exchanged views on bilateral relations with Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyzstan: Iranian-Kyrgyz Talks Open in Tehran

LD1804100896 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0813 GMT 18 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran, 18 Apr (Itar-Tass) — Iranian-Kyrgyz talks at the level of foreign ministers today opened in the Iranian capital. In order to participate in them, Roza Otunbayeva, head of the Kyrgyz Foreign Ministry, arrived in Teheran in the evening on 17 April.

This visit precedes President of Kyrgyzstan Askar Akayev's trip to Iran scheduled for mid May; Akayev will attend a ceremony for the opening of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen section of the railway. This railway will provide the Central Asian countries with the shortest route to the Persian Gulf.

Tehran newspapers today report that besides preparations for Akayev's visit, the agenda of the Iranian-Kyrgyz talks also includes issues of bilateral relations and the situation in the region. In the meantime, these days the first sitting of the joint Kyrgyz-Iranian commission for economic cooperation is taking place in Bishkek. On the results of the sitting it is planned to sign a memorandum on mutual understanding, which is the first memorandum in the history of bilateral relations, dealing with cooperation between the two states in the economic, scientific, and cultural spheres.

Kyrgyzstan: U.S. Defense Delegation Meets Kyrgyz National Guard

LD1704193596 Bishkek Kyrgyz Television Network in Kyrgyz 1430 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting between a delegation of the U.S. Defense Department and the National Guard was held today.

The aim of the visit is to look at cooperation between the armed forces of our countries within the framework of the Partnership for Peace program. Cooperation and prospects for further development both in the military and humanitarian spheres were considered during the meeting between National Guard Commander Maj-gen Chotbayev and General John Sheehan, commander of the U.S. Atlantic Command, who is heading the U.S. delegation.

The U.S. guests were also interested in the reforms being carried out in the Kyrgyz Army, the tasks that the independent military unit — the National Guard — is carrying out, and its goals. An agreement was reached on possible participation by the servicemen of National Guard in the forthcoming exercises on U.S. territory this summer. The U.S. side also expressed its readiness to render assistance in training military specialists in various subjects.

Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan: Niyazov, Kyrgyz President Discuss Cooperation

LD1804185496 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 0500 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A telephone conversation took place today between Saparmurad Turkmenbashy Niyazov and President of the Kyrgyz Republic Askar Akayev. The two heads of state exchanged opinions on bilateral relations, regional policy, and on the idea of deepening traditionally friendly relations between the people of Turkmenistan and the Kyrgyz Republic.

The forthcoming ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] summit was a focus of attention during the conversation. President of the Kyrgyz Republic Askar Akayev said President Saparmurad Turkmenbashy had played a major role in deepening mutually beneficial partnership among neighboring states and gave full support for the agenda of the meeting of the heads of this major regional organization.

The Kyrgyz leader praised highly the implementation of the grandiose Tedzhen-Sarakhs-Mashhad railway construction project, which will become an important element in regional and inter-regional cooperation. The

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new railway is practical proof of Turkmenistan's large economic and technological potential, Askar Akayev said. The Kyrgyz president confirmed that he would participate in the opening ceremony of the Turkmen-Iranian railway.

Saparmurad Turkmenbashy said that independent neutral Turkmenistan intended to play an effective linking role in the partnership between Asian and European states and stressed that Turkmenistan was ready to create the necessary conditions to work out and implement new large-scale ECO transport, telecommunications, and oil and gas projects.

The leaders of the two states wished each other and each other's nations success in implementing their responsible and large-scale tasks at this important moment in history.

Turkmenistan: Economic Cooperation Accord Signed With Moscow

LD1604173296 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1528 GMT 16 Apr 96

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Kurbanova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ashgabat, 16 Apr (Itar-Tass) — An agreement on economic cooperation was signed in Ashgabat at the end of the visit of a Moscow delegation led by Deputy Mayor Aleksandr Musykanskiy. The deputy mayor today was received by Turkmen President Saparmyrat Niyazov. They discussed cooperation in constructing a railway terminal in Sarakhs which will become an important station on the Trans-Asian railway Tedzhen-Sarakhs-Tehran-Abbas, which will open the passage to the Persian Gulf.

The agreement which was signed today will become the basis for a long-term mutually beneficial cooperation between the Russian capital and Turkmenistan, Aleksandr Musykanskiy told ITAR-TASS. Turkmen consumers know very well the trade marks of Moscow enterprises in the field of machine-building, in the production of household electrical appliances, and in the food industry. Cooperation in the field of chemical and textile industries is also promising.

Turkmenistan: Large Aluminium Deposits Found

LD1704132596 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 0700 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Ashgabat, 17 Apr — In the near future, the Turkmen economy will have another string to its bow — the aluminium industry. Following the wish of President Saparmyrat Turkmenbashy [Niyazov] that the priority directions of economic development, including of nonferrous metallurgy, be established, the country's ecologists have been conducting prospecting work at the Zyulfagar alunite deposit since the beginning of the year. Alunite is the raw material from which alumina and sulphate is derived. These can be used to make metal aluminium. The deposit is located in the south of the country, in Badkhyz.

Prospecting of the first 10 bore-holes has confirmed that the rock contains up to 50 percent alunite. According to the geologists' forecasts, the newly-opened Zyulfagar deposit is large and its reserves of ore are estimated in tens of millions of tonnes. There is another deposit of alunite nearby in Zeali, where prospecting work is also being conducted. Both reserves are sufficiently rich to provide for Turkmenistan's aluminium industry.

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Armenia

Armenia: No Agreements Signed During Chinese Minister's Visit

NC1704142296 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0721 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("Azg" daily), 04/17/96 — No documents have been signed during the visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen to Armenia.

The sides were mainly preparing to the visit of ROA [Republic of Armenia] President Levon Ter-Petrosyan to China on 2-5 May. During a short press conference Mr. Qichen said that collaboration agreements will be signed in Beijing.

ROA Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan said that the sides reached understanding in regard with political questions, and no political problems exist between Armenia and China. In addition to collaboration between governments and parliaments, Foreign Ministers of our two countries decided to collaborate in international organizations, particularly in the United Nations.

Mr. Qian Qichen said that Armenia-China relations have age-old history, and that there are no obstacles to their development. The only problem is technical transportation difficulty. He hoped that this is a temporary problem which is possible to overcome by joints efforts.

Chinese Foreign Minister added that he is satisfied by significant economic changes in Armenia. He said that a memorandum about civil air transportation and agreements to avoid double taxation will be signed during the President Levon Ter-Petrosyan's visit to China. He also paid great attention to the development of bilateral trade economic relations.

Armenia: Foreign Minister Leaves for Kiev To Prepare Agreement

NC1804201696 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation headed by Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan left for Kiev today on an official visit to prepare the friendship and cooperation agreement between Armenia and Ukraine.

The agreement will be signed later on in Yerevan by the presidents of the two countries.

During the visit, Papazyan will meet the president and foreign minister of Ukraine, will deliver a lecture at the Ukrainian International Relations Institute, and will visit the present and future premises of the Armenian embassy.

Papazyan will leave Kiev for Brussels on 20 April.

Armenia: Deputy Speaker Meets Turkish Speaker, Comments on Ties

NC1704212796 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Armenia is a democratic, peace-loving country that spares no effort to establish friendly ties with all countries, particularly its immediate neighbors, stated Ara Sahakyan, deputy chairman of the Armenian National Assembly and head of the Armenian parliamentary delegation, addressing the 95th conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Istanbul.

Referring to the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Sahakyan noted that the problem should be solved by peaceful political means. An agreement to satisfy the two main conflicting parties, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, could be achieved only through talks and by taking into account the existing realities, he underlined.

After the conference, Sahakyan was received by Mustafa Kalemli, the speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly. Matters relating to the prospect of establishing inter-parliamentary relations between Armenia and Turkey were examined during the meeting, which lasted nearly 30 minutes.

Sahakyan noted that he considers the absence of contacts between the two neighboring countries unnatural. These relations should not depend on a third country, he said, adding: Armenia has no precondition for the establishment of normal relations between Ankara and Yerevan.

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan: Aliyev Receives PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen

NC1704180296 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev today received Qian Qichen, PRC vice premier of the State Council and foreign minister, who is on an official visit to our country.

In conveying the greetings of the Chinese leaders to Geydar Aliyev, the diplomat noted that the Azerbaijani president's visit to China two years ago is remembered as an important and significant event in the development of the ties between the two countries. Talks held since then at various levels have created conditions for the expansion of cooperation. The guest expressed the conviction that the present visit will also be beneficial.

Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev stressed that he gives special importance to the expansion of ties with

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the PRC [words indistinct]. In briefing the guest on the situation in our country, Geydar Aliyev touched upon the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict and noted that the policy of occupation being pursued against Azerbaijan by the Armenians must be firmly condemned by the international community, for any separatism means a new source of conflict and tragedy.

Matters relating to bilateral ties were also discussed at the meeting.

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov also received Qian Qichen today.

Azerbaijan: Gasanov, PRC Foreign Minister Discuss Bilateral Relations

LD1704223996 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1604 GMT 17 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayev and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baku, 17 Apr (Itar-Tass) — Azerbaijan and the PRC are in favor of developing long-term friendly relations. This was stated by Gasan Gasanov, foreign minister of Azerbaijan, and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, who arrived here on a two-day official visit, this evening during their talks.

The heads of the Foreign Ministries believe that the basis for such a partnership was laid two years ago during Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev's official visit to the PRC. A number of political and economic documents were signed as a result of that visit. This, they noted, created a treaty and legal basis for developing and deepening bilateral relations. The ministers believe that now it is important that the good relationship between the two countries is put on a practical footing.

The head of the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry expressed gratitude to his Chinese counterpart and his country for their support for the republic in settling the Karabakh conflict. Qian Qichen said that his country sees a solution to this problem within the framework of Azerbaijan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. He also said that the Chinese Government has allocated humanitarian aid to the sum of 1,000,000 yuan to Azerbaijan.

According to information of the Azerbaijani Foreign Economic Relations Ministry, over the past year the trade turnover between the two countries was about $4.5 million.

Azerbaijan: Qian Qichen on Chinese-Azerbaijani Cooperation in Oil

NC1804191196 Baku TURAN in English 1557 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/18.04.96/TURAN — The question of territorial integrity and sovereignty is principal for any state. We always support respect of this principle in the international relations, TURAN was told by Foreign Minister of China Qian Qichen.

Concerning China's attitude to the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh, the Minister noted, that the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia brought a lot of troubles to both people. He believes, that the situation is going to change to better, as a cease-fire regime has been preserved for a long time. "We hope that the conflict will be settled in the near future. China's government supports the efforts of the UN and the OSCE for reaching the just and rational peace, the Foreign Minister of China said.

Speaking about the purpose of his visit he said that during the visit of the president Geydar Aliyev to Peking in 1994 an agreement on the basis of bilateral relations was signed. "During my visit to the region we discussed the question on the ways of implementation of those agreements," Qian Qichen said.

He also said that during the talks in Baku the China was made a proposal on co-operation in the sphere of oil and gas production. "I think that co-operation in oil sphere can become a new field of co-operation between our countries," The Foreign Minister said.

Relations between China and Transcaucasian countries have a long history. He said that Azerbaijan had a great potential in the oil and many other fields of economy. Azerbaijan has very important geographic situation between Europe and Asia, is at the cross of North and South and that attracts China," Qian Qichen noted.

Azerbaijan: Ex-Premier Panakh Guseynov Detained

NC1704202796 Baku TURAN in English 527 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/17.04.96/TURAN — At night April 16-17 the police of Baku detained former Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Panakh Guseynov, TURAN was told by head of the press-service of the Interior Ministry of Azerbaijan Sadig Gezalov. Details are not reported. Gezalov also said that Panakh Guseynov was accused by law enforcement bodies according to Article 57 of the Criminal Code of Azerbaijan (high treason) and he was wanted since 1993.

Panakh Guseynov leaded the government of Azerbaijan for several months in 1993 under the president Abulfaz

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Elchibey. After the regime of Elchibey was overthrown in 1993 Panakh Guseynov hid and according to non-confirmed information he lived for some time in the northern Cyprus.

Source in the Ministry of Interior said that in 1993 a case was initiated against Panakh Guseynov and he was wanted.

Panakh Guseynov was accused by law enforcement bodies and representatives of the power of use of armed forces against his people and exceeding of his authorities. These accusations were used against Guseynov due to attempt to disarm in June 1993 illegal armed groupings by Suret Guseynov in Ganja.

Azerbaijan: PFA Statement on Arrest of Former Premier Guseynov

NC1804185996 Baku TURAN in English 1728 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/18.04.96/TURAN — Party PFA [People's Front of Azerbaijan] considers ungrounded the accusations against ex-premier Panakh Guseynov on use of armed forces against his people and pilferage of state property in large sizes.

"Party PFA considers that accusations against Panakh Guseynov on use of armed forces against muntineers in June 1993 in Ganja are illegal. Some mistakes made by Guseynov when he occupied the post of Prime Minister can be the reason only for political responsibility," the statement reads.

According to the statement, after Ganja events in June 1993 the Party PFA did not have any contacts with Panakh Guseynov.

"Arrest of Panakh Guseynov under present situation and accusations in committing of hard crimes have political ground. By this the power tries to distract the attention of the publicity from serious problems in the country," the statement reads.

Azerbaijan: No New Trial Planned for Former Defense Minister Gaziyev

LD1704163896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1208 GMT 17 Apr 96

[By Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU April 17 (Itar-Tass) — Azerbaijani authorities will not stage a new trial of ex-defence minister Ragim Gaziyev, who was sentenced to death in absentia in May 1995 by the Supreme court of Azerbaijan, but will give him a chance to get a pardon.

"There should be and will not be" any new court investigation of Gaziyev's case, Hanlar Gadzhiyev, the chairman of the Supreme court of Azerbaijan, told Tass on Wednesday.

He added that this did not mean that the ex-minister, who was extradited by Moscow on Tuesday, will be immediately executed. "As every citizen of Azerbaijan the former head of the defence department has the right to be pardoned", Gadzhiyev said.

However, he said it was unclear whether Gaziyev would appeal for pardon and declined to predict whether he may win a pardon.

The ex-defence chief was sentenced to death in connection with two attempted coups against president Geydar Aliyev and for surrendering the towns of Lachin and Shusha in Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenians.

Azerbaijan: Relatives of Former OPON Members Seek Asylum in Turkey

NC1704131796 Baku TURAN in English 1013 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/17.04.96/TURAN—42 Azeri citizens — close relatives of former OPON [Special Purpose Police Detachment] members — have made request to Turkey's Government to grant them political asylum.

They said Turkey has a moral right to express its attitude towards events in March 1995, since OPON was accused of relations with Turkey's special services, which were allegedly involved in the coup attempt in Azerbaijan.

Close relatives of OPON members say the Azerbaijani authorities continue their harassment. The appeal reads that after March events about 500 OPON members, who were charged with high treason, have been arrested.

* OPON - Special Police Department of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Internal Affairs. In March 1995 there were armed conflicts between OPON and Governmental troops, which took approximately 1,000 lives. OPON was destroyed and more than 500 persons were arrested. The administration of OPON was accused of coup attempt.

Georgia

Georgia: Qian Qichen Comments on Georgian Stability, Reforms

LD1704151096 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1335 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 17 April — The press center of the Georgian Parliament has reported that Georgian Parliament Chairman Zurab Zhvania met

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Qian Qichen, State Council Deputy Prime Minister and foreign minister of the People's Republic of China, and other members of the Chinese delegation.

Z. Zhvania thanked the delegation for the visit and said that China is one of the most interesting examples for Georgia with regard to implementing economic reforms. He also said the restoration of its territorial integrity remains Georgia's principal goal. He said Georgia is interested in China's support for the Georgian president's peaceful Caucasus initiative.

Mr. Qian Qichen spoke about China's experience in implementing economic reforms. "Reforms cannot be implemented without political and social stability. Good grounds have been prepared in Georgia for economic reforms and we are sure that the country will soon achieve economic stability," he said.

The chairman of the Georgian Parliament has conveyed an invitation to Qiao Shi, chairman of the Chinese National People's Congress, to visit Georgia.

Georgia: Foreign Minister, PRC's Qian Qichen Discuss Economic Reform

LD1704171596 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Georgian 1345 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi — A meeting was held in Tbilisi on 16 April between Qian Qichen, vice premier of the PRC State Council, and Georgian Foreign Minister Irakli Menagharishvili.

During the meeting, Irakli Menagharishvili indicated that Georgia regards cooperation with the world's largest state as highly significant and thanked the visitor for China's firm stand with regard to Georgia's territorial integrity and for the moral and material support rendered to Georgia.

The minister briefed the visitor on current processes in Georgia and said the participation of all interested countries in establishing peace in the Caucasus region will become a crucial factor in fruitful cooperation between the West and the East.

The parties agreed that the exchange of specialists in various fields and the study of China's experience in implementing economic reforms will contribute greatly to the development of relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Georgia: Russia's Pastukhov Arrives to Mediate S. Ossetia Conflict

LD1804115496 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 0948 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tskhinvali, 18 Apr (IBERIA) — Boris Pastukhov, Russia's first deputy foreign minister, arrived in the Tskhinvali region yesterday for meetings with the current authorities of the region. According to a report by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pastukhov's visit aims at persuading the authorities of Tskhinvali region to sign a zero variant agreement proposed by the Georgian side. According to this variant, Georgia renounces the resolution passed by the Georgian Supreme Council in December 1990 on abolishing the autonomous okrug of South Ossetia, while the Supreme Council of South Ossetia renounces its resolution on declaring the republic of South Ossetia.

Georgia: Shevardnadze Welcomes Agreements on South Ossetia

LD1804215096 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1422 GMT 18 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoria]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 18 Apr — Eduard Shevardnadze believes that agreements on strengthening and intensifying Russian's mediatory and peacekeeping role in settling the conflict in South Ossetia are beginning to bring tangible results, Vakhtang Abashidze, press secretary to the Georgian president, told journalists at a briefing in Tbilisi today.

The press secretary said the protocol "On initialling the memorandum on ensuring security and strengthening mutual trust between the parties to the Georgian-Ossetian conflict", signed in Tskhinvali on Wednesday [17 April], was a major step forward in settling the conflict in Tskhinvali region (South Ossetia). He stressed that the protocol had been just initialled, and the document itself had not been signed, since it had been just worked out.

Georgia: Foreign Minister Against Russian Withdrawal From Abkhazia

LD1704160996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1048 GMT 17 Apr 96

[By Tengiz Pachkoria]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tbilisi, April 17 (Itar-Tass) — Georgian Foreign Minister Irakli Menagharashvili said a Russian withdrawal from Abkhazia would be inopportune at the moment.

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"A cessation of Russian peacekeeping activities in the zone of the Abkhazian conflict contradicts the interests of Georgia, as no one can exclude new provocations and attempts to involve Georgia in a new conflict with all ensuing consequences," Menagharashvili said in an interview with SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA daily.

At the same time, he said the present mandate of the peacekeeping forces in the region does not help settle the conflict.

He said Russian troops had played a certain positive role at the first stage of the peacekeeping mission when they managed to prevent a confrontation between the warring parties.

However, the peacekeeping mission does not only aim to preventing armed clashes. It should also target both humanitarian and political aspects of the conflict, he said.

According to the minister, this process has come to a standstill.

Menagharashvili said the mandate of Russian troops in Abkhazia and their functions should change. Otherwise, their presence will have an adverse effect, he stressed.

Georgia: Shevardnadze Proposes Special Status for Abkhazia

LD1804113896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0802 GMT 18 Apr 96

[By Tebgiz Pachkoriya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI April 18 (Itar-Tass) — Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze said the political and juridical assessments of the situation in Abkhazia contained in a resolution of the Georgian parliament passed on Wednesday are critical but fair. The presidential press secretary Vakhtang Abashidze said this to Itar-Tass on Thursday.

The parliament proposed, on a basis of these assessments, to withdraw the collective peacekeeping forces from the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflicts within two months unless proposals of the Georgian side are taken into consideration in the working out in their new mandate. The parliament is of the opinion that these forces consisting of Russian servicemen failed to ensure safe return of refugees and their stay in native places and reliable protection of their dignity.

The Georgian side proposes that the zone of the peacekeeping forces be spread to the entire Abkhazian territory and that they be given police functions.

Shevardnadze expressed particular satisfaction with the fact that the parliament went along with his proposal for imparting to Abkhazia a special autonomous status in the composition of the Georgian state. In the framework of this status Abkhazia will have its own constitution, parliament, supreme legislative and judiciary bodies, a coat of arms, an anthem, a flag and other symbols of statehood.

The activity of peacekeeping forces having only one purpose, the maintenance of peace in the zone of the conflict, causes serious dissatisfaction in Georgia. Many parliamentarians demand that they be withdrawn.

However, Tbilisi so far does not go further than demanding the change of their mandate and widening of their powers.

Georgian Foreign Minister Irakly Menagarishvili said again on Wednesday that the "termination of the peacekeeping operation of the Russian peacekeeping forces in the zone of the Abkhazian conflict contradicts Georgia's interests as there may be provocations and even attempts to draw Georgia into a new conflict with consequences to follow".

Georgia: Shevardnadze Backs Vote To Withdraw Russian Troops

LD1804120896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1120 GMT 18 Apr 96

[By Tebgiz Pachkoria]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI April 18 (Itar-Tass) — Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze backed the Wednesday vote of the national parliament to withdraw Russian peacekeeping forces from Abkhazia if they are not given police functions and their mandate is not spread to the whole of Abkhazia, as well as the decision of lawmakers to grant a special autonomy status to the separatist region.

Shevardnadze assessed the parliamentary resolution as "tough, but just", his spokesman Vakhtang Abashidze told Tass on Thursday.

Abkhazian leader Vladislav Ardzinba told Tass by telephone that he would prefer to refrain from comments until he gets "a better idea about the resolution of the Georgian parliament".

The parliament proposed to withdraw Russian peacekeepers from the border between Georgia and Abkhazia in two months unless the demands of Tbilisi are not met in the new mandate of the troops.

The parliament is of the opinion that the peacekeepers failed to ensure a safe return of Georgian refugees to Abkhazia.

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The activity of the peacekeeping forces having only one purpose, the maintenance of peace in the zone of the conflict, causes serious dissatisfaction in Georgia. Many parliamentarians demand that they be withdrawn.

Official Georgian authorities propose that the zone of the peacekeeping forces be spread to the entire Abkhazian territory and that they be given police functions in the new mandate.

However, official Tbilisi so far does not go further than demanding the change of the mandate only.

Georgian Foreign Minister Irakly Menagarishvili said again on Wednesday that the "termination of the peacekeeping operation of the Russian peacekeeping forces in the zone of the Abkhazian conflict contradicts Georgia's interests as there may be provocations and even attempts to draw Georgia into a new conflict with consequences to follow".

Shevardnadze expressed particular satisfaction with the fact that the parliament went along with his proposal for imparting to Abkhazia a special autonomy status within Georgia. In the framework of this status Abkhazia will have its own constitution, parliament, supreme legislative and judiciary bodies, a coat of arms, an anthem, a flag and other symbols of statehood.

Shevardnadze made the proposal after a telephone talk with Ardzinba in early April which, according to the Abkhazian leader, passed "in a constructive way".

Georgia: MPs Issue Resolution Demanding Withdrawing Peacekeepers

LD1704163696 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1105 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 17 Apr — The Georgian Parliament today unanimously approved a resolution, "on measures to settle the conflict in Abkhazia," with 187 votes in favor. Various parliamentary factions have been discussing the draft resolution for 10 days and finally came up with a compromise version.

The resolution says that events in Abkhazia should be regarded as a political conflict in Abkhazia, not as a Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. The legal authorities of Abkhazia should be regarded as full participants in a settlement of the conflict. The constitution, the post of president, and legislative and enforceable acts approved by the separatists are declared void. The Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs should present the UN with evidence of the genocide, ethnic cleansing, and military crimes committed by the separatists, and should request that the UN set up an international tribunal. peacekeeping forces have failed to ensure the safe return of displaced persons and refugees to their homes and to protect their dignity, the peacekeeping operation under the present mandate, or under a new mandate which does not take into account Georgia's proposals, should be regarded as having no prospects, and the peacekeeping forces should be withdrawn from Georgia within a period of two months."

The opposition National Democrat faction has said that it retains the right to review this clause in a month's time.

Georgia: Abkhaz Leader Predicts Georgia Will Renew War

LD1804114296 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 0948 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sukhumi, 18 Apr (IBERIA) — In connection with the Georgian parliament's 17 April resolution on settling the Abkhazian conflict, Vladislav Ardzinba, leader of the Abkhaz separatists, said that the resolution is an indication of Georgia's preparations for a new war against Abkhazia. Vladislav Ardzinba believes that Georgia will renew combat activities after the Russian presidential election has been held.

Georgia: Parliament Adopts Resolution on Abkhaz Settlement

LD1804152996 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Georgian 1355 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi — The Georgian Parliament, after long discussions, on 17 April adopted a resolution on the measures for the Abkhaz conflict settlement. Clarifying the above, Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze said that the assessments, spelled out in the resolution, "although strict are completely fair."

Eduard Shevardnadze noted that the main thing was that parliament had shared and supported the Georgian president's position on granting a special status to Abkhazia within a single Georgian state. The president also stressed that by adopting the resolution, parliament had confirmed that it was important to seek peaceful ways for the Abkhaz conflict settlement.

Georgia: Abkhaz Leader Receives Message From Dudayev

LD1704171496 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Georgian 1345 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sukhumi — It has become known from a reliable source that a permanent representative of Chechnya in Abkhazia has handed over to Vladislav Ardzinba a letter from Dzhokhar Dudayev. The letter predicts "a quick and final victory over the common enemy." Dudayev urges Ardzinba not to give

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in to Russia, to adopt delaying tactics, and to refrain from signing any agreement until he receives further instructions. The letter names influential Chechen officials who will be arriving in Abkhazia in the near future to "coordinate joint activities in the Caucasus and on Russian territory."

Georgia: Chechnya's Dudayev Calls For Caucasus Unity Around Georgia

LD1904114596 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 0945 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 19 Apr — Ramzan Goytemirov, Dzhokhar Dudayev's first deputy, and chairman of the Ecological Council of the Caucasus, has told an Iprinda correspondent in a telephone conversation that the leadership of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria has prepared a statement which says:

"Representatives of nine republics of the Caucasus, the public and political movements of the Caucasus, and especially the national liberation movements, believe that Georgia should become the center of the Caucasus. This will ensure the unity of Georgia and the Caucasus in general. There exists no other way for the Caucasus.

"Georgians! The whole Caucasus, all those who really value honor, the Caucasus, and its traditions are with you. The future of the Caucasus depends on Georgia. We voice solidarity with you without Russian bases and gangs. We do not need Abkhazia without the Caucasus without Georgia and without Georgians. Dzokhar Dudayev is for a united Caucasus and a united Georgia," the statement says.

The statement is signed by Ramzan Goytemirov, chairman of the Ecological Council of the Caucasus, and Ruslan Abghurzakov, deputy foreign minister of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria.

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Estonia

Estonia: NATO Secretary General Holds News Conference in Tallinn

LD1704155796 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1000 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Opposition from either politicians in Russia or the Russians living in Estonia will not influence NATO when it comes to decide on Estonia's joining the organization. This is what NATO Secretary General Javier Solana stated in Tallinn today. Solana said at a news conference that NATO's new members will be identified this year. NATO started individual talks with the countries wishing to join the organization last year. Currently there is a debate in progress and as a result it will be decided by the end of the year which of the 11 eastern and central European countries aspiring toward NATO membership will become members of the alliance. Up until then NATO will view all the countries aspiring towards NATO as potential future members. Solana noted that he does not divide the countries into any kind of separate groups.

During his meeting with Prime Minister Tiit Vahi Solana noted that his visit to Estonia is a clear signal of NATO's support to Estonian aspirations. According to Solana, he as NATO secretary general well understands the concerns of the Estonian leadership about the country's security. Vahi stated to Solana that joining NATO is the top priority for Estonia. Vahi also voiced concern about some Western politicans' position on Estonia that first and foremost the Nordic countries must be the ones to take on the responsibiiity for ensuring security in Estonia.

Estonia: Solana: Decision To Enlarge NATO 'Will Not Be Made in 1996'

BR1704151396 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1024 GMT 17 Apr 96

[Report by Julia R. Arevalo: "Solana: Baltics Are 'Eligible' for NATO"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tallinn, 17 Apr (EFE) — NATO Secetary General Javier Solana today, Wednesday, reiterated his message of patience to the Baltic states by stating that all candidates for membership of NATO are equally "eligible," although he said that enlargement will need time.

"The decision to enlarge the Atlantic alliance will not be made in 1996," Solana told EFE, despite the general belief that the names of the countries elected as new members will be revealed at the end of this year.

During his visit to Estonia the secretary general explained that the results of NATO's dialogue with each of the 11 former Soviet bloc members aspiring to become members will be "evaluated," "something which does not mean that a decision will be made" with names and timetables.

For the time being "nobody is included or excluded" in the list of the alliance's new allies, Solana said during a news conference in Tallinn, the Estonian capital.

The secretary general, who will also visit Latvia today as part of a tour through several East European countries, insisted that the allied bloc does not make "distinctions" between countries such as the Visegrad Group (Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Hungary) — which analysts consider favorites for membership — or states like those of the Baltic region.

Solana, who today met with Estonian Foreign Minister Siim Kallas, Defense Minister Andrus Oovel, and Prime Minister Tiit Vahi, after meeting with President Lennart Meri last night, once again praised the Baltic involvement in Bosnia and reconfirmed that the Russian opposition to NATO's enlargement will not influence the process which has already begun.

"NATO makes its decisions in a sovereign way and not under the influence of external circumstances," he said, although he stressed that "obviously (those circumstances) are evaluated."

Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia, which became independent from Moscow five years ago and which were recently freed from the presence of Russian troops, are using Russian hegemonism as an argument for admission to the Atlantic alliance. They say they fear a major "aggression" from the Kremlin if the Communists win the June 1996 presidential elections.

During the presidential term of Boris Yeltsin the three small states have already been subjected to economic, political, and even military pressure from Moscow, which has hinted in veiled terms at an invasion if the Baltics were to become members of NATO.

"We always have to be wary of Russia; it is a great empire, which has always been aggressive," Ingvar Barenklau, the presidential press adviser, told EFE. He added that Estonia has noted more aggression at election meetings in Russia "in recent times".

At a joint news conference with Solana Kallas echoed the proposals for a regional security alternative for the Baltic countries and concluded that "the central security institution is NATO and all the (parallel) initiatives must be discussed in its context."

In Lithuania and Estonia, the two first Baltic countries which Solana visited, he heard an identical claim: The

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Atlantic alliance is the "only" security "alternative" which they can see.

"European security is an undivisible whole: If the NATO membership of a country or group of countries is to the detriment of the security of another country or group of countries, NATO will not have achieved its prime objective," President Meri said at a news conference.

NATO spokesperson Jamie Shea told EFE that the alliance does not have "any secret agreement that has not yet been announced," but that it is in a phase of dialogue with all the countries aspiring to membership (11 former Soviet bloc countries) to assess the steps to be taken both by NATO and the candidates "to adapt themselves to become ready" for membership.

During his Baltic tour and earlier in Ukraine Solana stressed the need to deepen cooperation within the "Partnership for Peace" cooperation program offered to the former Warsaw Pact countries.

Estonia: NATO Viewed as Sole Reliable Security System

LD1704192396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 17 Apr 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TALLINN, April 17 (Interfax) — Estonian Foreign Minister Siim Kallas told Interfax that his country is prepared to discuss in depth all proposals on a collective security system for Estonia but it will give priority to rapprochement with NATO.

Asked about the possibility that numerous countries of the West and Russia sign a pact on security guarantees for Estonia, he said that no specific proposal on this score has reached his ministry and he only heard a general idea of such a pact.

Kallas expressed his willingness to discuss collective security guarantees for Estonia but added that "the point is, to what extent they can be trusted and how they will work."

Kallas says that guarantees should be tangible, not illusory.

According to him, "NATO is now the only effective system and all projects should be considered in the context of cooperation with the alliance."

Kallas feared that if it gives up its reliance on NATO and works "vigorously and independently" on the setting up of a collective security systems, Estonia "may find itself in a vacuum. This is what we fear more than anything else."

Estonia: Parliament Ratifies Agreement on NATO Troops

LD1804150496 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0900 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The parliament has ratified an agreement that determines the status of NATO and its partner countries' troops deployed on each other's territory. Foreign Minister Siim Kallas said it would not be possible to send troops into another country's territory since a resolution to this end must be adopted in each individual case, which must also be endorsed.

Estonia: Presidents Meri, Havel Sign Trade Accord, Discuss Russia

LD1904102296 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0900 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Czech President Vaclav Havel met this morning with Estonian President Lennart Meri in Tallinn. Estonian minister Endel Lippmaa, a member of the Estonian delegation, will now report on the presidents' discussion.

[Begin Lippmaa recording] The two presidents discussed our peoples' views. That is, we are both in Europe, with us slightly more to the north and the Czech Republic straight in the middle, and it is the old relations between northern and central Europe that determine matters. Also, there is a current movement toward the European Union, involving the interests of both countries, which is why our countries are continuing along this line. The two presidents emphasized that very nicely and clearly.

The presidents also spoke about the dangers which exist along this path, because Russia's development causes concern not only in northern Europe but also in central Europe, and there was some exchange of views about this.

The economy was not left out during the discussion between the presidents, because ultimately this forms the basis of daily life. A corresponding free trade agreement was signed. Before that an exchange of ideas took place on the need to increase relations in this sphere. President Meri stressed that it is very good that the Czech Republic has brought along a delegation of business people and representatives of firms who are able to agree some specific aspects. Furthermore, possible agreements may have something to do not only with consumer goods, so to speak, but also with goods which are considerably more specialized in nature, but this all a matter for future talks. [end recording]

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Latvia

Latvia: Ulmanis Comments on Meeting With Solana

LD1704161496 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] NATO Secretary General Javier Solana arrived in Latvia today on a brief official visit. The aim of his visit is to get acquainted with the situation in possible candidate states of the Alliance. Immediately after his arrival, Javier Solana had a meeting with State President Guntis Ulmanis.

[Begin Ulmanis recording] That was strategically one of the most important meetings that I have recently had. We discussed possible NATO enlargement, the procedure of countries' admission, and the requirements which every country would have to meet, so that doors to NATO would be open for us. However, Europe and Russia remain a fundamental problem. And NATO enlargement would in no case give guarantees, until relations with Russia have been put in order, with respect for every independent state's principles, sovereignty, independence and so on.

We agreed to continue such talks in the immediate future. And it is very important for the presidents of the three Baltic states to meet the NATO secretary general to specify individual issues related to the fate of minorities in Latvia, and this issue was received in a very healthy and normal manner, but that is one of the first which would allow us to join NATO with a kind of great confidence [sentence as heard]. [end recording]

Latvia: Foreign Minister Comments on NATO Enlargement

LD1704133796 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0901 GMT 17 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] NATO Secretary General Javier Solana will come from Vilnius [as received] to Riga today on an official visit. The aim of his visit is to get acquainted with the situation in the (?prospective) [word indistinct] states of the Alliance. Javier Solana will meet the state president, the ministers of defense and foreign affairs and the leadership of the Saeima commissions on defence and foreign affairs.

Latvian Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs last week stressed that Latvia's aim is membership of NATO. Latvia is preparing to hand in a document to the NATO secretary general, which sets out Latvia's view on NATO enlargement. The foreign minister also mentioned specific measures which are carried out to get closer to the North Atlantic Alliance.

[Begin Birkavs recording] We have prepared a document which we will submit to NATO Secretary General Solana during his visit. We already put in the first draft of this document in Brussels. It looks like we will be a third country among candidate members of NATO after the Czech Republic and Slovakia to submit such a document. Our position is set out in the document — how we view NATO enlargement and we also put questions to NATO to which we want to receive answers. We have also put in this year a draft individual Partnership for Peace programme. We have prepared our participation in the national NATO cooperation plan [as received] and that is very welcome — our men are in the IFOR and that has been praised in the world. That is how we are shaping our security and the final aim of this process is achievable and that is NATO because it is the only organization which gives security guarantees to its members according to Article 5 of the Washington accord. Christopher in his speech in Prague clearly said that doors are open, there will be no new dividing lines, there will be no gray zones and there will be no spheres of influence, but there is no clear answer to how to achieve that.

Latvia: NATO Secretary General Views Enlargement Issues

WS1804131396 Tallinn BNS in English 1300 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Apr 17, BNS — NATO has not discussed which countries could become its new members, nor has it set any dates for enlargement, Secretary General Javier Solana told a Latvian newspaper.

These issues would be debated no sooner than in December, Solana told the nationwide daily DIENA. The decisions will be individual in each case, he noted.

Other states may involve in NATO activities raising security and stability in all countries regardless of their membership prospects, Solana said.

Solana praises Latvia's contribution to Bosnia peace enforcement. Latvian servicemen will also acquire valuable experience and develop skills to cooperate with NATO forces, he said.

Solana is touring the Baltic states this week. On Wednesday, he was welcomed in Riga airport by Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs, Ambassador to NATO Juris Kanels and Defense Ministry State Secretary Einars Vaivods.

During his visit to Latvia, Solana will have talks with President Guntis Ulmanis, Defense Minister Andrejs Krastins, Prime Minister Andris Skele, Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs and parliament members.

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Latvian officials will submit to the alliance head a National Discussion Paper that will form the basis for further membership negotiations.

The document describes the structure of the Latvian armed forces, its contribution to the NATO Partnership for Peace program.

Solana and Latvian officials will possibly set a date for discussions in Brussels with the country's delegation.

Latvia: Solana Sums Up Visit to Latvia

LD1704193896 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Latvia is ready to integrate into European and transatlantic security and economic structures, and to make its contribution to the security of the North Atlantic region, attested Latvian prime Minister Andris Skele today in conversation with NATO Secretary General. [passage omitted]

Solana came to Latvia on a brief official visit. After talking to several Latvian officials, the NATO secretary general stressed that the expansion of NATO will not create grey zones in the security structure of Europe.

[Begin recording] [Solana, in English fading to Latvian translation] I wish to thank your country for its participation in the peacekeeping forces. The participation of the Baltic battalion in the Nordic countries' unit is a very important element involved in peacekeeping, and therefore also in security in Europe. I had the opportunity to personally meet the soldiers in Bosnia, and was surprised at their professionalism. The Latvian foreign minister presented me with a discussion document, which will be the basis for talks about the extension of NATO. In 1996 we are starting individual discussions with those countries that wish to join NATO. Therefore this document is very necessary.

The fact that a decision to make the NATO alliance larger was taken was influenced by the outside world. We do not wish in expanding NATO to create new levels in the division of Europe. That is not our aim. We do not wish to isolate Russia. I want to stress that NATO does not wish to create any grey zones. No country that has expressed a wish to join NATO has been crossed off our list. [end recording]

[Announcer] Latvian Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs said that Latvia must be [word indistinct] NATO. Therefore the participation in the Partnership for Peace program and the peacekeeping operations in Bosnia are very important.

[Begin Birkavs recording] We believe that Latvia's membership — full membership — of the alliance is a question of the stability of northern Europe, of northern and central Europe. The firm determination of NATO to expand its organization also means that specific measures must be worked out so that the commencement of the NATO expansion process will not be detrimental to the state security of the other candidates. We have to make our contribution to the security of the North Atlantic region, and we must be ready to undertake all the duties and obligations stipulated by NATO membership. That is why it is necessary for us to be active in the partnerships and the Implementation Force operations. [end recording]

[Announcer] NATO Secretary General Javier Solana is continuing his tour of countries that have expressed a wish to become NATO members.

Latvia: President: NATO Membership Alone Cannot Ensure Security

LD1804142196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0958 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] RIGA, April 18 (Interfax) — NATO's expansion will by no means guarantee Latvia's security, if its relations with Russia remain unsettled, Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis announced at a briefing following yesterday's meeting with NATO's Secretary General Javier Solana, who paid a one-day official visit to Latvia.

"Latvia's admission to NATO depends on its ties with Europe and Russia," Ulmanis declared, noting that "a solution of the ethnic minorities' problems will be a precondition on admission to NATO."

During the visit, Solana was presented with a national discussion paper, a classified document prepared by the Latvian side for discussion at the individual consultations with NATO, scheduled for this year.

According to Solana, the doors to NATO are not closed to anyone wishing to join.

NATO is positively against drawing a new line, dividing spheres of influence in Europe, Solana said. Moscow's view of NATO today does not correspond to the current essence of the alliance, he added, which is entirely different from what it used to be in the cold war period.

Despite that, NATO wants to strengthen and expand relations with Russia rather than isolate it, Solana said.

Latvian Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs has explained that as membership in NATO is Latvia's strategic aim, "it will take the most active part in the Partnership for Peace program and other NATO actions, open for the countries, wishing to join this organization."

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Latvia: Tallinn To Allow Latvia To Fish in Estonian Waters

LD1804111296 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Estonia has advised Latvia of the coordinates of the sea area within whose limits Latvian fishing boats will be able to fish in Estonian territorial waters until 1 August. This was told to the press by the Estonian environment minister. No fishing quotas have been introduced for Latvian fishermen. It is planned to find a solution to the issue of the maritime border between the two countries by 1 August, the Estonian official stressed.

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